

②
HD1486
G7C3

Cornell University Library
HD 1486.G7C3

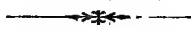
Rules of constitution and association of



3 1924 014 046 837

mann

RULES
OF
CONSTITUTION
AND
ASSOCIATION
OF THE
Central Chamber of Agriculture
WITH
BYE - LAWS.



1922.

WESTMINSTER, S.W. 1.

RULES

OF

CONSTITUTION AND ASSOCIATION

OF THE

CENTRAL AND ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE,

As adopted by the Council, passed at a Special General Meeting of Members on December 6th, 1871, and amended on February 6th, 1877, February 5th, 1878, March 2nd, 1880, December 6th, 1882, February 2nd, 1892, December 12th, 1900, December 6th, 1905, December 8th, 1908, December 10th, 1913, December 10th, 1919, and December 7th, 1921.

• INTERPRETATION.

In the interpretation of these "Rules" the following words and expressions have the following meanings, unless excluded by the subject or context—that is to say :—

- A—The "Central Chamber" means the body of Members subscribing to the funds direct, Life Members, Honorary Members, and Annual Deputies. The number of Honorary Members at any one time shall be limited to ten.
- B—"Associated Chamber" means "Chamber of Agriculture," "Farmers' Club," or other similar body admitted into association.
- C—"General Meeting" means a meeting of all Subscribing Members, and of members "deputed" by "Associated Chambers."
- D—"Council Meeting" means a meeting of "the twenty-four Elected Members of Council," of "Deputed Members," and of "Annual Deputies."

E—Words importing the singular number only include the plural number.

F—Words importing the plural number only include the singular number.

G—“ Deputed Members ” means members deputed by any “ Associated Chamber ” for a particular meeting of the Council.

H—“ Annual Deputies ” means “ Deputed Members ” appointed for the current year.

I—“ Members ” means persons elected by the Council, who subscribe not less than £1 annually to the funds, Life Members who have paid a composition of £10, Honorary Members, and Patrons who subscribe £10 per annum or have paid a composition of £100.

K—“ Elected Members of Council ” means the twenty-four Members chosen out of and by the “ Members,” to represent the Central Chamber on the Council.

OBJECT.

1.—The object of the “ CENTRAL CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE ” shall be to promote and advance the best interests of Agriculture, and with that view to watch over all measures affecting the “ Agricultural interests ” before Parliament, and to take such action on all matters, both in and out of Parliament, as may seem desirable for the benefit of Agriculture.

TERMS OF MEMBERSHIP.

2.—Persons desirous of joining the “ Central Chamber ” shall be proposed and seconded by members of either the Council or the Central Chamber, and must be elected by a majority present and voting at any meeting of the Council, and shall pay a subscription of not less than One Pound per annum, due in advance on the first day of December in each year, or a composition of Ten Pounds for life. Every person subscribing not less than Ten Pounds per annum, or a composition of One Hundred Pounds for life, shall be termed a “ Patron.”

3.—No member shall be allowed to vote, to hold any office,

to speak at any meeting, or to serve on any committee, whose subscription is in arrear ; but no subscription shall be deemed to be in arrear until the 31st day of March in each year. The Business Committee shall have power to strike off the list of members those whose subscriptions are in arrear for two or more years ; no member so struck off shall be re-admitted until all arrears are paid.

4.—A majority of the Business Committee, consisting of at least two-thirds, present and voting at any meeting of that Committee may by resolution expel any member of the Central Chamber whose conduct renders him, in their opinion, unfit to be a member. Provided that at least 28 days' notice has been given to such member that a resolution to this effect will be proposed. No person so expelled can make a claim for any portion of his annual subscription to be returned.

5.—Any Chamber, Farmers' Club, or other Agricultural Society desirous of being associated with the Central Chamber must be admitted into association by a resolution of the Council.

6.—The " Council " shall have power to terminate its connection with any " Associated Chamber " by a majority of two-thirds of the Members of Council present and voting, notice having been given to the Council and the Society interested at least twenty-eight days previously.

7.—Each Chamber admitted into association shall furnish annually to the Secretary of the " Central Chamber " a certified statement, upon prescribed forms (known as the Annual Schedule), to be obtained of the Secretary, signed by the Chairman and Secretary of such " Associated Chamber," showing the number of its members, the amount of its annual contribution, and the names and addresses of its " Annual Deputies."

8.—No Chamber having less than 25 members, and contributing less than £3 annually to the " Central Chamber," shall be admitted into association. The minimum annual subscription from associated organisations of 150 members or upwards shall be Five Pounds for the first Deputy, and Three Pounds for each subsequent Deputy.

9.—Each “Associated Chamber” shall be entitled to appoint one “Annual Deputy” or “Deputed Member” to the Council, and an additional Deputy for every 50 members over the first 25 comprised in such “Associated Chamber,” provided that such Chamber shall have contributed to the funds of the Central Chamber for the current year a sum as provided in Rule 8. No “Associated Chamber” shall be allowed to appoint more than six “Annual Deputies” or “Deputed Members” at one time.

THE COUNCIL.

10.—The business of the Central and Associated Chambers shall be managed by a Board, called the “Council,” which shall consist of “Annual Deputies,” or “Deputed Members,” of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Treasurer, and of twenty-four members chosen out of and by the general body of “Members,” as defined in Paragraph I. Of these twenty-four Members eight shall be elected by voting papers at the Annual Meeting, in the place of eight who retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election. Any other vacancies occurring at this meeting shall be filled at the same time.

11.—Twenty-one Members of the Council shall form a quorum.

12.—The “Council” shall be deliberative and executive, and shall have full power to take action upon all matters concerning the Chamber.

13.—Notice of “Council Meetings” shall be given by circular from the Secretary, forwarded at least fourteen days before the day of meeting, to all Elected Members of Council, to Annual Deputies, and to the Secretaries of “Associated Chambers.”

14.—All subjects for discussion shall be selected by the Council in the manner prescribed by Rule 64, but may, in cases of emergency, be varied in their order or added to by the Business Committee, or by the Chairman and Secretary.

15.—No formal resolution shall be adopted, nor shall any public action be taken in the name of the “Council” upon any subject (with the exception of matters of general business), unless such subject has been included in the notice forwarded

to each "Associated Chamber" at least fourteen days before the day of discussion, except subjects of "urgency," which may be brought forward by the Business Committee on the agenda of the day.

16.—All vacancies in the Council occurring among "Elected Members of Council," and not otherwise provided for, shall be filled up by the "Elected Members of Council." In the event of any of the twenty-four "Elected Members" absenting themselves from meetings of the Council for seven consecutive meetings, they shall, *ipso facto*, cease to be members of the Council, but if the seventh absence occurs at the meeting immediately preceding the Annual Meeting, the vacancy shall not be filled until the election of the eight retiring members takes place at the Annual Meeting. Provided that this Rule shall not operate if an "Elected Member of Council" can show that his absence was due to illness or absence abroad. Vacancies among "Deputed Members" shall be filled up by their respective Chambers.

17.—The Council shall meet in London at least four times in each year, and at such other times and places as it may see fit.

18.—At Council Meetings Members of the Central Chamber may be present, and other persons who may be officially invited, may speak and move resolutions, but shall not have power to vote.

19.—The Council shall have power to make such "bye-laws" as it may judge necessary for the efficient and orderly conduct of business, a copy of which shall be exhibited at the "offices" and at the place of meeting.

20.—A Special Meeting of the Council may be called by the Chairman at his discretion, and shall be called on the requisition in writing of any ten Elected Members of Council, or Annual Deputies, to the Secretary, who shall forthwith summon a Special Meeting in the manner provided for summoning an ordinary meeting, the place and day of meeting to be fixed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman with the Secretary.

THE "BUSINESS COMMITTEE."

21.—The Council shall appoint annually a Committee for General Business, four of whom at least shall be "Annual Deputies," which shall meet previous to every "Council Meeting," and as often as it may see fit, and which shall prepare resolutions and arrange all matters requiring the consideration of the "Council" or "General Meeting"—such Committee to consist of the "Chairman," the "Vice-Chairman," and the "Treasurer," and not more than nine other members of the Council, three to form a quorum.

22.—The Business Committee have executive powers, in order that there shall be a continuously working executive able to take immediate action.

23.—Every "Associated Chamber" shall forward to the Secretary of the "Central Chamber" (upon the Annual Schedule), the name or names of its "Annual Deputy or Deputies" for the ensuing year, and may nominate one of the said "Deputies" to be placed upon a list of names, which shall also include eight members selected out of and by the twenty-four Elected Members of Council, from which list the nine members of the "Business Committee" shall be chosen by the "Council."

24.—No member of the "Business Committee" shall be eligible for re-election in any year unless he has been present at, at least, four of the meetings held during the preceding year, unless his non-attendance has been caused by any reason approved by the Committee.

25.—The Election of the Business Committee shall be conducted by Voting Papers.

26.—The twenty-four Elected Members of Council shall nominate eight of their body by means of Voting Papers circulated by post previous to the first Council Meeting of the current year. In the event of two candidates obtaining an equal number of votes, when such two candidates are placed eighth and ninth on the list, both names shall be put on the voting paper.

27.—At the first Council Meeting after every Annual Meeting, a List containing the names of such eight Elected

Members of Council, together with the names of Annual Deputies nominated by Associated Chambers, shall be provided for each Member of the Council present, when each Member desiring to vote shall place a figure denoting the number of votes to which he is entitled against not more than nine of the names, and return the list to the Chairman.

28.—Each Annual Deputy and Deputed Member of Council shall be entitled to exercise the full voting power of his Chamber if no other deputy from the same Chamber is present, provided that notice to this effect be placed in the hands of the Secretary before the votes are taken. When two or more deputies from the same Chamber are present they shall agree among themselves as to the exercise of the voting power of their Chamber. Elected Members of Council shall have one vote each in addition to any voting powers which they may possess as Deputed Members. Previous to the return of the Voting Papers the Council shall appoint two Scrutineers, who shall compute the votes; and as soon as the majorities are ascertained, they shall be declared by the Chairman of the Meeting.

29.—In the event of two candidates appearing as ninth and tenth with an equal number of votes, a second ballot between such candidates shall be taken forthwith.

30.—A Special Meeting of the Business Committee may be summoned by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman at any time, not less than three days' notice being given.

31.—Vacancies occurring in the Business Committee shall be filled by the next available candidate who received the highest number of votes at the previous election. In the event of the next two having obtained an equal number of votes it shall be left in the hands of the Business Committee to decide which of the two shall fill the vacancy.

GENERAL MEETINGS.

32.—The Annual General Meeting shall be held in London, in the "Smithfield Club Show" week in December, when the Report of the Council shall be read and other business transacted.

THE Central Chamber of Agriculture.

Chairman for 1920 :

The MARQUIS OF CREWE, K.G.

THE Central Chamber of Agriculture was founded in 1866, simultaneously with the formation of local Chambers in different parts of the country. These were combined into one Association, known as the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture.

Objects.

The objects of the Association are to promote the best interests of Agriculture, and, with that view, to watch over all measures affecting Agriculture both in and out of Parliament, and to take such action thereon as may seem desirable for the benefit of Agriculture.

Constitution.

By degrees the scope of the Association has widened, and it now comprises not only Chambers and Farmers' Clubs, but Agricultural Societies, Unions, Federations, Dairy Associations, and other Agricultural Institutions. The number of bodies associated is 85, representing, with the Central Chamber, a membership of over 30,000, and is thus a widely representative Agricultural Organisation. It is, moreover, the only Institution which effectively represents the general interests of Agriculture in Parliament. The Central Chamber has 380 members, including 160 members of the Legislature.

The work of the Chambers is governed by a Council, which consists of twenty-four members, chosen out of, and by, the subscribing members of the Central Chamber, and in addition about 130 deputies, appointed annually by the various agricultural bodies federated with the Central Chamber. The Council meets monthly in London, in February, March, April, May, June, July, November, and December. The subjects for discussion are selected by a Business Committee, representative of both the Central and Associated Chambers. Except in matters of urgency, the subjects selected are sent down to each associated body before being discussed by the Council in London. By this means the opinions of the Agricultural community are ascertained, and action is taken accordingly.

A Few Achievements.

With very limited financial resources the Central Chamber has for over fifty years advocated the interests of Agriculture, and some of the work it has accomplished may be indicated by the following examples.

A Department of Agriculture.

The creation of the Board of Agriculture in 1889 was the direct result of the Chambers' demand. Its existence enables agriculturists to press their views upon the Government through a department specially charged with the care of their interests. In 1909 the Chamber succeeded in getting a Parliamentary Secretary appointed, so that the Board is now represented in both Houses of Parliament.

Cattle Disease Legislation.

When the Chambers were established there was practically no protection against the ravages of disease among the flocks and herds of this country. Their persistent efforts have resulted in the passing of successive measures for preventing the importation of disease from abroad, and for exterminating it at home. Every demand for these measures has been resisted, but every step taken has been justified by results. The Diseases of Animals Act, 1903, is the latest of a series of enactments which have been passed at the instigation of the Chambers. The diseases existing in the country, such as swine fever, tuberculosis, and sheep scab, are still engaging its attention. Useful action in the interests of Agriculture was taken by the Central Chamber in each of the twelve Sessions, 1901-1912, with regard to legislation promoted by Municipal Corporations on the subject of tuberculosis and the milk supply.

Local Taxation.

The reduction of local rates and resistance to measures tending to increase them have received constant attention from the Chambers. Pending a permanent reform of the basis of local taxation, it has obtained successive grants from Imperial sources which amounted in 1896 to about £9,000,000 per annum; it also obtained the passing of the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896, which relieved agricultural land from one-half of the rates hitherto charged upon it. It was at the suggestion of the Chambers that a Royal Commission was appointed to inquire into the whole question of Local Taxation.

This Commission recommended the re-adjustment of local taxation very much on the lines which the Chambers have always advocated, viz., that National or "Onerous" services should be paid for out of National Funds.

When the Education Bill of 1902 was introduced it imposed all the additional costs incurred under the Bill on the ratepayers. The Chambers took active steps to resist this, and, before the Bill was passed, succeeded in obtaining extra grants from the National Exchequer of about £1,350,000 per annum.

The Old Age Pension Act effected a saving to local authorities of about £1,500,000 per annum by largely doing away with outdoor relief. The Government intended to make Boards of Guardians hand the amount so saved to the Treasury, but owing to the strong representations made by the Central Chamber in December, 1910, the Government decided to defray the whole of the increased cost out of the National Exchequer. Local rates were thus saved this amount.

Perhaps the greatest accomplishment has been to prove that the need for a complete readjustment of the incidence of local taxation is not a "party" question. This is shown by the fact that the

demands of the Central Chamber are not only supported by members of both political parties, but the justice of our demands has been admitted by leaders of both the great parties in the State.

The Law of Agricultural Holdings.

The work done by the Central Chamber in connection with the various Agricultural Holdings Acts is generally recognised, and these Acts have progressively given greater freedom to tenant farmers.

In 1903 a Special Committee was appointed to draw up a Scale of Compensation for Unexhausted Improvements, and the recommendations and scale drawn up by that Committee have been so favourably received as well by local Valuers' Associations as by Chambers of Agriculture, that almost all these bodies have adopted the method advocated by the Central Chamber.

Railway Rates.

For any improvements which have been made in the rates and conditions for the conveyance of farm produce, the agricultural community has largely to thank the Central Chamber, which, in co-operation with the Mansion House Association on Railway and Canal Traffic, helped to secure the passing of the **Railway and Canal Traffic Acts of 1888 and 1894**. The **Railway Fires Act, 1905**, was drafted and carried through as a Private Member's Bill under the auspices of the Central Chamber. Under its provisions Railway Companies are responsible for damage caused by sparks from their engines.

Agricultural Education.

A Report on Technical Education in Agriculture, drawn up by a Joint Committee of the Central Chamber and the Farmers' Club in 1890, contained recommendations with regard to State aid for this purpose. Nearly the whole of these were adopted. The Chamber in the following year urged that a "fair share" of the residue accruing to County Councils under the **Local Taxation Act, 1890**, should be devoted to technical agricultural education, and made suggestions as to the best means to adopt. All these suggestions have been adopted in different localities.

Adulteration of Dairy Products.

The Chamber was directly instrumental in obtaining the **Margarine Act, 1887**, and this proving ineffective, it obtained the appointment of a Select Committee—to which its Chairman and Vice-chairman were nominated—which presented a Report in 1896, embodying the proposals laid before it by the Chamber. The **Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1899**, is based upon this Report, and is the result of the repeated demands of the Chambers. The **Butter Act of 1907**, which has still more effectively prevented the sale of adulterated mixtures as butter, was also passed owing to the agitation made by the Chambers.

Agricultural Depression.

In connection with the two Royal Commissions on Agriculture of 1879 and 1895, the Chamber secured a fair representation of the state of Agriculture. In 1895 it obtained information which directed the attention of Parliament and the public to the subject.

Necessity for Maintenance and Development.

These incomplete notes refer only to the past, but there is ample work for the immediate future, as may be seen by a perusal of the recent Annual Reports of the Chamber. That its efforts may be even more effective than they have hitherto been, it appeals for the active support of all who are interested in the ownership and occupation of land and the welfare of British Agriculture. With greater financial resources, the work of the Central Chamber could be very greatly developed. For this reason a cordial invitation is given to all those **Agricultural Bodies not at present federated with the Central Chamber to become associated at once.** It should be pointed out that in joining the Central Chamber existing Societies will not in any way prejudice their independence, or the objects for which they are now working. Whether their aims are the encouragement of breeding and the improvement of stock, the furtherance or protection of any particular branch of the industry, combination for trading, or any other purpose, we assume that the ultimate object is the welfare of Agriculture as a whole, and if that is so, it goes without saying that united effort will tend more rapidly in that direction than the individual attempts of isolated and single Societies, however well directed.

A large accession of new subscribing Members to the Central Chamber is also urgently required. **Unless Agriculturists are prepared efficiently to maintain an organisation for the furtherance of their own industry, they cannot complain if other interests, more alert, should receive greater consideration from Parliament.**

Conditions of Association.

Every Chamber or other Agricultural Institution admitted into association with the Central Chamber must contribute a sum of not less than **£3 per annum** for every Deputy appointed upon the Council. No Association having less than **25 Members** is eligible for admission, and the number of Deputies may not exceed six. The Voting Power of each Associated Body is determined by the number of Deputies for whom the requisite annual subscription has been paid, viz., one vote for every Deputy it is entitled to appoint.

Terms of Membership.

Candidates for election as Members of the Central Chamber must be proposed and seconded by existing Members.

The minimum subscription for members is **£1 per annum**, or a **Life Composition of £10**. A contributor of £100 becomes a Life Patron. Members are entitled to copies of the Official Journal, Reports, and other documents issued by the Central Chamber, to attend and to speak, but not to vote, at all meetings of the Council; and with the right of voting at all general meetings; to suggest subjects for discussion to the Business Committee; to have access to the Library of Agricultural Blue-books and Reports at the Central Office; and to obtain information from the Secretary, as far as practicable, on all matters within the sphere of the Chamber's operations.

Further particulars will be gladly supplied by

HERBERT MATTHEWS,

Secretary.

28, Westminster Palace Gardens, Artillery Row, S.W. 1.

FIFTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE
CENTRAL & ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS
OF AGRICULTURE,

Presented TUESDAY, 11th December, 1923,
To the GENERAL MEETING OF MEMBERS.

Chairman for 1924.
VISCOUNT ELVEDEN, M.P.

Treasurer.
COL. H. LE ROY-LEWIS, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Westbury House,
Petersfield.

Auditors.
F. A. REEVES AND CO., 8, Laurence Pountney Hill, E.C. 4.

Secretary.
SIR HERBERT MATTHEWS, KNT.

Offices.
28, WESTMINSTER PALACE GARDENS, ARTILLERY ROW, S.W. 1.

Bankers.
GLYN, MILLS, CURRIE AND CO.

Parliamentary Agents.
LEES AND CO., Palace Chambers, Westminster, S.W. 1.

Legal Advisers.
H. MORGAN VEITCH, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, W.C.
A. E. B. SOULBY, Malton, Yorks.

Trustees for the Central Chamber.
LORD BLEDISLOE, K.B.E.
LORD DESBOROUGH.
RT. HON. LORD STRACHIE.

CENTRAL CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE.—BALANCE SHEET, 15th NOVEMBER, 1923.

Dr. Cr.

1922.	LIABILITIES.	£	s.	d.	1922.	ASSETS.	£	s.	d.
140 0 0	To Sundry Creditors	115	17	9	5 19 4	By Cash at Bank (see opposite)	..	..	10 15 11
248 10 6	" Bank Overdraft, Current Account	118	5	1	90 14 9	" Cash in Hand	..	..	76 15 8
	" Surplus, as at 15th November, 1922	3454	9	10		" Amounts due for Reports and Papers	..	..	
	Add increase on revaluation of	28	0	0		" Furniture, Office Fittings, Books, &c., ...	20	0	0
	Investments	7	7	9		as last year	..	..	5 0 0
	Profit on Sale of Investments	3489	17	7	20 0 0	Less Depreciation	..	..	15 0 0
	Less Deficiency for year from	147	16	9	202 0 0	Investments—	200	0	0
3454 9 10	Revenue Account	3342	0	10	175 13 0	£200 New South Wales 5½% Stock, ...	182	10	0
					3087 18 4	1922/32 (cost £202 10s.)	..	..	..
						£272 7s. 9d. India 3½% (cost £250)	..	..	..
						£3091 2s. 1d. War Loan 5%, 1923/47	3091	2	1
						(cost £2848 19s.)	3473	12	1
3843 0 4		3376	3	8			3376	3	8

We have audited the above Balance Sheet, and certify that it is a full and fair one, and correctly represents the position at the date thereof as disclosed by the books of the Chamber. We have not verified the investments.

(Signed) REEVES & YOUNG,
Chartered Accountants, Auditors.

8, Laurence Pountney Hill,
Cannon Street, E.C. 4,
and Canterbury.
November 21st, 1923.

Dr. Cr. REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 15th NOVEMBER, 1923.

1922.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	1922.	REVENUE	£	s.	d.
214 9 0	To Rent of Offices, Cleaning and Fuel	208	4	3	353 10 0	By Annual Subscriptions from Chambers	..	..	319 14 0
54 0 0	" Expenses of Meetings, Reporting, &c.	70	19	0	380 6 0	" Annual Subscriptions from Members	..	..	340 3 0
450 0 0	" Secretary's Salary	450	0	0	6 15 0	" Local Taxation Committee Receipts	..	..	135 7 10
418 13 10	" Printing, Bookbinding and Stationery	238	11	0	163 4 3	" Sale of Reports and Papers	..	..	87 6 7
18 16 9	" Parliamentary Books and Papers	28	9	7	70 17 6	" Advertisements in <i>Journal</i>	..	..	7 2 6
82 8 7	" Postages, Receipts, Telegrams and Carriage of Parcels	61	5	5	10 0 0	" Life Composition	..	..	..
30 17 8	" Office Expenses and Studies	41	5	0	5 0 0	" Rent Received	..	..	..
5 5 0	" Subscriptions	5	5	0		" Interest on Investments—	..	..	..
24 2 3	" Organising and Travelling Expenses	14	13	3		On Consols	0	8	8
10 10 0	" Legal Expenses	4	4	0		India 3½%	7	5	6
4 4 0	" Audit Fee	5	0	0		Gr. Northern Railway	3	8	7
5 0 0	" Depreciation of Furniture, Fixtures, &c.	35	15	3		N.S. Wales 5½%	8	18	4
37 17 0	" Income Tax	56	0	0		War Loan 5%	154	10	10
	" Local Taxation Committee Expenses	..	..	..	161 8 8	Special Subscriptions Received	..	..	170 8 10
					2 1 0		..	..	6 12 8
					1143 2 5				1071 15 5
					213 1 8				147 16 9
1356 4 1		£1219 12 2	1356	4	1				£1219 12 2

Deficiency for Year Carried to Balance Sheet

COUNCIL.

The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Treasurer are *ex-officio* Members of the Council.

Members representing the Central Chamber (24).

AKERS, A.
 AMOS, A.
 BARNSTON, MAJOR H., M.P.
 CHANNING OF WELLINGBOROUGH, LORD
 COURTHOPE, LT.-COL. G. L., M.C., M.P.
 DYER, DR. BERNARD.
 EVE, SIR H. TRUSTRAM, K.B.E.
 FAIRFAX LUCY, SIR HY., BART.
 GRANT, W. J.
 KELLY, MAJOR DUNBAR, D.S.O.
 MALCOLMSON, V. A.
 O'HAGAN, LORD.

ORLEBAR, LT.-COL. ROUSE.
 PENBERTHY, PROF. JNO.
 PRICE, F. HAMLYN.
 QUESTED, J. E.
 REW, SIR R. HENRY, K.C.B.
 SHELLEY-ROLLS, SIR J. C., BART.
 SIMMONS, SIR W. ANKER.
 STRACHIE, RT. HON. LORD.
 SUTTON, MARTIN H.
 THOMSON, TOM.
 TOWNLEY, M. G.
 WHELER, MAJOR G. C. H., M.P.

Annual Deputies representing Associated Bodies (80).

ABBREVIATIONS.—A.C. for Agricultural Club; F.C. for Farmers' Club; F.A. for Farmers' Association; D.F.A. for Dairy Farmers' Association; A.A. for Agricultural Association; A.S. for Agricultural Society; T.F.A. for Tenant Farmers' Association; F.U. for Farmers' Union; C.L.A. for Central Landowners' Association; N.U. of L.W. for National Union of Land Workers.

[Names in italics are Secretaries as well as Deputies.]

ALMOND, J., Ream Hills, Weeton, Kirkham (Lancs. F.U.).
 ARGLES, C. G., Sibson, Wansford, Peterborough (British D.F.A.).
 ARMOUR, HARRY, Niddry Mains, Winchburgh, N.B. (Scottish).

BALDEN, R. S., Bywell, Leeds Road, Dewsbury (West Riding).
 BELCHER, J. M., Tibberton, Newport, Salop (Shropshire).
 BLUNDELL, F. N., M.P., Crosby Hall, Blundellsands, Liverpool (Agric. Parly Assocn., Ormskirk Br.).
 BRIDGE, J. E., Park House, Golborne, Newton-le-Willows (Lancs. F.U.).
 BRIGG, THOS., J.P., High House, Addingham, Ilkley (Craven T.F.A.).
 BROWN, R. G., Goodmayes, Ilford, Essex (Ilford A.A.).
Burtenshaw, A. K., Hailsham, Sussex (Hurstmonceux F.C.).
 BYASS, JOHN, Ryedale House, Tennyson Avenue, Bridlington (Yorkshire Union).

CASTELL, T. Y., Lamport, Northampton (Northants.).
Chettle, T., Manor Farm, Reading (Berks and Adj. Counties D.F.A.).
 COLW, J. C. Bulphan Hall, Nr. Romford (South Essex F.U.).
 COLTHUP, WM., Harbledown, Canterbury (The Farmers' Club).
 CRANFIELD, W. W., Buckden, Hunts. (Hunts.).
 CUMBER, W. J., Theale, Berks (Berks & Oxon).
 CURTIS, CAPT. H. C., Chantry House, Ripley, Harrogate (Hurstmonceux F.C. and Ripley A.S.).

DARLINGTON, J., Stanwardine, Cockshutt, Ellesmere, Salop (Shropshire).
 DAVID, M. W., Bryn Rhydderch, Penpergwm, Abergavenny, (Monmouthshire).
 DEERHURST, VISCOUNT, Pirton Court, Wadborough, Worcester (Worcestershire.)

EARLE, Lt.-Col. T. A., Pangbourne Lodge, Pangbourne, Berks. (Land Agents' Soc.).

FALCONER, JAS., Northbrook Farm, Micheldever, Hants. (Winchester A.A.).

FITZHERBERT-BROCKHOLES, W., 12, Paulton's Square, Chelsea, S.W.3. (Lancs. F.U.).

FLOWERS, W. C., Beachenden, Aylesbury (Bucks.).

FURBER, J., Austerson Hall, Nantwich (Cheshire).

GARDNER, H. C., Ombersley, Droitwich (Worcester).

Gilbanks, G. W., *Central Buildings, Corn Market, Penrith* (Cumb. and West. F.P.A.).

HAMILTON, JAS., Old Garswood, Wigan (Lancs. F.U.).

HASTINGS, LORD, Malton Constable Park, Swanton-Novers, Norfolk (Norfolk).

HAVELOCK-ALLAN, SIR H., Bt., Blackwell Grange, Darlington (Darlington).

HENDERSON, JOHN, Annandale Estates Office, Moffat, N.B. (Scottish).

HINCKS, H. T., Keyham, Leicester (Leicestershire).

HIPKIN, A. H., Hilston, Rowlands Castle, Hants. (Fareham F.C.).

HUME, T., Nethersole Farm, Womenswold, Nr. Canterbury (Canterbury F.C.)

JAMES, G. H., Donce Grove, Northiam, Sussex (Rye F.C.)

JAMES, J., Sheepcourt, Bonvilstone, near Cardiff (Glamorganshire).

JESSOPP, A. L., Lexham Hall, King's Lynn (Norfolk).

KIDNER, S., O.B.E., The Elms, Milverton, Somerset (Taunton Agr. Club).

KING, F. P., Tappington Hall, Denton, Nr. Canterbury (Canterbury F.C.)

LAMBSHEAD, JAS., Dean Farm, Fareham (Fareham & Hants F.C.).

LONDON, H., Walton Farm, Aylesbury (Aylesbury F.A.).

LEE, H. P., Wood Villa, Wadhurst (Wadhurst F.C.).

LODER, REG. B., Maidwell Hall, Northants (Northants.).

Lovell, H. R., 132A, *High Street, Huntingdon* (N.U. of L.W.).

LYON, COL., Appleton Hall, Warrington (Cheshire).

MANN, SIR EDWARD, Bt., Thelveton Hall, Scole, Norfolk (Norfolk).

MASON, A. H., Prior Park, Ashby-de-la-Zouch (Leicestershire).

MAY, E., Home Farm, Bedgebury, Goudhurst, Kent (Goudhurst F.C.).

Middleton, C., *Vane Terrace, Darlington* (Cleveland).

MORGAN, R. T., Ramsdown, Chillerton, I. of Wight (I. of Wight A.S.)

NEWSHAM, J. C., F.L.S., Rhadyr Farm, Usk, Mon. (Mon.).

NEWTON, SIR DOUGLAS, M.P., Croxton Park, St. Neots, Cambs. (C.L.A.).

PACKARD, SIR E., Bramford, Ipswich (Suffolk.)

PADWICK, H., The Red House, West Ashling, Chichester (Sussex Ag. Soc.).

PARKES, T. W., Brookfield, Broomhall, Worcester (Worcestershire).

PARKINSON, A. L., Royal Bank, Marton, Blackpool (Blackpool D.F.A.).

PARLOUR, W., Croft, Darlington (Darlington).

PARRIS, C. J., Crowborough, Sussex (Tunbridge Wells F.C.).

PATTERSON, R. G., Acton Hill, Stafford (The Farmers' Club).

Pearce, R. C., *Central Hill, Darlington* (Darlington).

PREL, SAM, East View, Wells, Norfolk (N.U. of L.W.).

PENBERTHY, PROF. J., Deau Hall, Newnham, Glos. (Glos.).

REA, G. G., Doddington, Wooler, Northumberland (Newcastle F.C.).

READ, STRATFOLD, Saunderton, Princes Risbro' (Bucks).

RICH, THOS. Aldsworth, Northleach (Cirencester).

ROYDS, COL. E., 46, Bedford Square, W.C.1. (Lincs.).

ST. JOHN, LORD, Melchbourne Park, Beds (Beds.).
 SCOTT, J. M., The Crooks, Newent, Glos. (Gloucestershire).
 SOLLEY, G. C., Richborough, Sandwich (Canterbury F.C.).
 STEARN, F. W., Old Newton Rookery, Stowmarket (Suffolk).

THOMAS, Jno., New Wallace, St. Nicholas, Nr. Cardiff (Glam.).
 THOMPSON, J., East Rigton, Leeds (Yorks. Union).
 TIPPER, L. C., Ribbesford, Wake Green, Moseley (Birmingham).
 TURNOR, C., Stoke Rochford, Grantham (Lincolnshire).

WALKER, E. G. F., Whitehall Farm, Chew Stoke, Bristol (N.E. Som.).
 WARDLE, G., Redbrook Lodge, Whitchurch, Salop (Whitchurch D.F.A.).
 WELLS, S. R., M.P., Felmersham Grange, Sharnbrook, Beds. (Beds.).
 WHITE, Prof. E. W., Betley House, Shrewsbury (Shropshire).
 WINCH, W. F., Baker's Cross House, Cranbrook, Kent (W. of Kent F.C.).

COMMITTEES.

Cattle Diseases and Dairy Products Committee.—A. Amos, R. S. Balden, H. R. Beeton, T. Chettle, W. J. Cumber, W. Fitzherbert-Brockholes, H. C. Gardner, W. J. Grant, M. H. Holman, S. Kidner, H. Landon, Col. H. Le Roy-Lewis, C. Middleton, Professor Penberthy, G. G. Rea, J. Sadler, Lord Strachie, J. Thompson, G. Wardle.

Education Committee.—H. T. Elwes, W. Fitzherbert-Brockholes, W. J. Grant, Sir Douglas Newton, M.P., Professor Penberthy, J. Sadler, Christopher Turnor.

Local Taxation Committee.—A. Akers, R. S. Balden, W. J. Cumber, Sir Trustram Eve, J. Falconer, H. C. Gardner, M. H. Holman, G. H. James, S. Kidner, Col. H. Le Roy-Lewis, Sir Douglas Newton, M.P., G. G. Rea, Stratford Read, Lord Strachie, R. S. Strachey, Major G. Wheler, M.P.

Parliamentary Committee.—Lord Bledisloe, Lt.-Col. G. L. Courthope, M.P., Major David Davies, M.P., Lord Desborough, Lord Forester, Lord Guilford, Lord Hindlip, Lord Norbrook, Lord O'Hagan, Lord St. John, Lord Selborne, Lord Strachie, E. R. Turton, M.P., Lord Treowen, Major G. C. Wheler, M.P., Murrough Wilson, M.P.

Prevention of Fraud Committee.—Dr. Bernard Dyer, H. C. Gardner, Major Dunbar Kelly, C. Middleton, Lord O'Hagan, F. Hamlyn Price, J. E. Quesed, Sir Henry Rew, J. Sadler, Lord Strachie.

Railway Committee.—Lord Deerpur, W. Fitzherbert-Brockholes, C. Middleton, F. Hamlyn Price, Sir Henry Rew, J. Sadler, L. C. Tipper, Tom Thomson, H. Morgan Veitch, R. S. Strachey.

Business Committee.—W. J. Cumber, H. C. Gardner, Sam, Kidner, R. G. Patterson, Professor Penberthy, Sir Henry Rew, Sir Anker Simmons, M. G. Townley, Major G. Wheler, M.P.

Central Chamber of Agriculture.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

FOR THE

Year ended 15th November, 1923.

1.—The Council of the Central and Associated Chambers of Agriculture present their Fifty-eighth Annual Report. During the past year the Ripley Agricultural Society has been admitted into association ; seven bodies have withdrawn or been dissolved, viz., Craven Agricultural Society, North-East Hants Agricultural Association, Leicester Farmers' Union, Melplash Farmers' Club, Somerset Chamber, Sussex Dairy Farmers' Association, and Warwickshire Chamber. The number of associated bodies is now 52, including four whose subscriptions for 1923 are still unpaid. The membership of the Central Chamber shows a decrease of two during the year. The total, whose subscriptions are paid, and including Honorary and Life Members, now stands at 380.

2.—The twenty votes for the annual election of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution were, at the request of Mr. Amos, given to Mr. and Mrs. Mount, who were not successful in obtaining a pension.

3.—Lord Strachie succeeded to the chairmanship of the Central Chamber at the meeting on 30th January, 1923, following Mr. M. G. Townley, and Viscount Elvedon, M.P.,

was elected Vice-Chairman. The latter will succeed to the chairmanship for 1924, at the first meeting in the New Year.

4.—It is with great regret that your Council have to report the loss by death of the following members :—Mr. Frank Bibby, Sir T. Barrett-Lennard, Bart., Mr. G. G. L. Bush, Right Hon. Viscount Chaplin, Mr. J. F. Crewes, Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, Mr. W. W. Glenney, Colonel J. F. Honeyball, Hon. Aubrey Herbert, M.P., Lord Kinnaird, Mr. F. J. Lloyd, Mr. A. K. Loyd, M.P., Sir H. Vansittart Neale, K.C.B., Viscount Portman, Mr. R. J. Sankey, Sir John Mark MacTaggart-Stewart, Bart., Sir Joseph Walton, Bart.

5.—During the year the Council have made the following nominations :—Deputation to the Postmaster-General on the Parcel Post, on 18th April; deputation to the Ministry of Agriculture, asking for an inquiry into outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Cheshire, on 6th November; Professor Penberthy and Mr. S. Kidner, to conference at House of Commons on importing breeding stock, on 15th May; Mr. Chris. Middleton as witness to Departmental Committee on Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs, on 6th November; Mr. W. J. Cumber and Mr. J. M. Scott as witnesses before Lord Linlithgow's Departmental Committee on Distribution and Prices of Agricultural Produce.

6.—The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 15th November, 1923, will be found on page 2. This shows a debit balance of £147 16s. 9d.

7.—The Council have again to acknowledge the courtesy they have met with from the officials of the various Government Departments with which the Central Chamber has come into contact. They also desire to express their great indebtedness to the Surveyors' Institution for the use of their large hall for Council meetings.

LOCAL TAXATION.

8.—Sir Trustram Eve was re-elected Chairman of this Committee. It has held five meetings during the year, and

presented five reports to the Council, which have all been adopted unanimously, except the last one, and that comes up for adoption on 11th December.

Agricultural Rates Act, 1923.

9.—The first report, presented on 30th January, and adopted on 27th February, gave reasoned arguments in favour of further grants from the National Exchequer, in aid of agricultural ratepayers. It recalled the promises made by many candidates at the recent General Election, and advised agriculturists generally to press their claims for relief upon as many of the new members of Parliament as possible.

10.—The second report, adopted on 1st May, expressed the thanks of the Chambers for the Government's promise to introduce a Rates Relief Bill, and *inter alia* suggested :

“ That the State should make definite grants on some permanent basis in alleviation of the cost of roads and bridges, now borne by the rates, in attempting to give an equivalent sum representing the lessened payment of rates in respect of agricultural land ; as against a payment of an exact sum year by year to local authorities to make up the deficiency.”

11.—The Agricultural Rates Bill was introduced on 17th May, when it was found that the Government had not adopted the suggestion contained in the last paragraph. The Local Taxation Committee presented its third report on 5th June, suggesting a few amendments, but approving generally of the Bill, and urging members to give it the widest possible support. It further asked for authority to issue other matter, if necessary, without waiting to bring it before the Council.

12.—This request was granted, so on 27th June the Committee adopted and issued its fourth report, in the shape of a sixteen-page pamphlet, called “ The Case for Agriculture.” This was circulated to all local Chambers and to every member of Parliament at once, in order to help to carry the Bill through the House of Commons. The Chambers are certainly justified in claiming that the passage of the Bill and the calmness of its passage as compared with the Rates Bill of 1896, was at

least in part due to this pamphlet, and to the earlier reports of this Committee. The Bill became an Act on 2nd August.

Draft Valuation Bill.

13.—The fifth report, presented on 6th November, dealt entirely with the Government's draft Valuation Bill. The advent of this measure had been foreshadowed in earlier reports from this Committee, and it was circulated by the Ministry of Health to a number of national organisations, before its introduction into Parliament, in order to ascertain public opinion upon its provisions. The Committee opened its report by expressing their gratitude at this method of procedure, and there can be no doubt that much parliamentary time might be saved if this precedent is followed in future.

14.—The report (a pamphlet of thirty-two pages) set out the main features of the Bill and commented on them. While not denying that the measure contained some good provisions, it strongly condemned the general tendency to bureaucracy which it embodied, and the additional expense which its administration would involve upon local authorities. Copies of the report have been sent to all local Chambers, to every Assessment Committee in England and Wales (except those in the metropolitan area), and to many other public institutions. It was presented to the Council on 6th November and referred to local Chambers.

Cost of Roads.

15.—On 27th February Colonel Hilder, M.P., moved the following resolution in the House of Commons, where it was agreed to by 190 votes to 58 :—

“That the revenue raised by the taxation of mechanically propelled vehicles should be adequate to cover the additional cost of road maintenance attributable to motor traffic.”

At the Council meeting held that same morning a resolution supporting Colonel Hilder's motion was carried, and handed to him in the House of Commons that afternoon.

16.—On 1st May a resolution was adopted by the Council on the motion of Lord Deerpur as follows :—

“ This Council consider that the greater portion of the cost of roads and their maintenance should be borne by heavy traffic and an increased grant from the National Exchequer.”

Cost of Education.

On 10th July the following was adopted :—

“ That this Council protest against the increasing bureaucratic control and heavy expenditure incurred over education.”

Rating Returns Bill.

17.—This was a private member's Bill, enabling Overseers and Assessment Committees outside the Metropolis to obtain returns. The Local Taxation Committee, in a report adopted on 1st May, advised that it should be opposed by the Parliamentary Committee. The Bill got into Committee, but all the operative clauses were there struck out, so it was agreed not to proceed further with it.

CATTLE DISEASES AND DAIRY COMMITTEE.

18.—Professor Penberthy and Mr. Chris. Middleton were re-elected Joint Chairmen of this Committee. It has held four meetings and presented three reports during the year.

Sheep Scab.

19.—On 6th December the following was carried after a prolonged debate, with two or three dissentients :—

“ That in the opinion of this Council pamphlets should be as widely circulated as possible, dealing with the best methods of curing and eradicating sheep scab.

“ That power should be obtained to make an order at a definite date, the effect of which would be to prescribe that any stock owner having sheep scab in his sheep or selling to any other person sheep affected with scab, should, after, say, two years from the publication of the order, be liable to a heavy penalty, *e.g.*, 3s. per sheep, with a minimum fine of £10, unless he is able to show that he habitually took proper measures to cure and prevent the disease in his sheep.

“ The existing double dipping order should be abolished.”

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

20.—On 30th January the Committee presented a lengthy report on the Departmental Committee's Report on Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Cmd. 1784). All its recommendations were quoted in full and general approval with them was expressed. The report was referred to local Chambers, and adopted by the Council on 27th February.

21.—The same report recalled the resolution on sheep scab, adopted on 6th December, to the notice of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Canadian Store Stock.

22.—On 27th March a report from this Committee was adopted *nem. con.*, criticising the Importation of Canadian Cattle Order of 1923 (No. 1277) and protesting against the admission of "spayed" heifers.

Tuberculous Canadian Cattle.

22a.—During a discussion on the importation of breeding stock on 1st May the following resolution was carried unanimously :—

"That the attention of the Government be called to the report of Dr. Dearden (Medical Officer of Health for the Manchester Port Sanitary Authority), referred to in *The Times* of 1st May (page 8, column 3), in which it is stated that the first batch of Canadian cattle were not altogether free from pulmonary tuberculosis. This Council are of opinion that immediate steps should be taken to trace the cattle in question, with a view to their isolation."

Admission of Breeding Stock.

23.—The same report called attention to a statement in *The Times* referring to rumours as to the attitude of the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the admission of breeding stock, and declaring strenuous opposition from the Chambers to the admission of such stock.

24.—On 1st May the Council nominated Professor Penberthy and Mr. Kidner to attend a conference at the House of Commons, on 15th May, convened by the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons, to consider the general pro-

posal of the Government to admit breeding stock and the provisions of the draft Order which the Ministry was proposing to issue. No official report of this conference has been made public, beyond a letter from Captain Pretyma, M.P., in *The Times* of 18th August, but our delegates gave expression to the opposition of the Chambers to the admission of any breeding stock at all, except such as is provided for by the Diseases of Animals Act, 1894.

25.—Since the beginning of March this question has occupied the attention of very many agricultural and breed societies and committees, and on numerous occasions resolutions have been passed opposing on principle the admission of breeding stock. For instance, the Council of Agriculture for England, on 10th May; the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society, on 11th April, and again on 1st August; the Central Landowners' Association, on 9th May and 15th November; the Advisory Committee of the Council of Agriculture passed a similar resolution to its parent body; and numerous Breed Societies have done so.

26.—On the other hand, the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons, which is political and not entirely an agricultural body, passed a resolution welcoming the admission of pedigree stock on reciprocal terms with the Dominions, but objecting to the admission of non-pedigree stock. The Live Stock Defence Committee, consisting of fifteen individual members, but with no authority from any other organisation to speak for them, passed a resolution on 20th April opposing the admission of breeding stock; they may have made representations to the Minister of Agriculture since, but as they publish no report of their proceedings, what action they may have taken is unknown. No other society is known to support the views of the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons. Yet on 11th August Sir Robert Sanders, in a letter to *The Times*, stated that he had accepted their resolution as expressing the agricultural opinion of the country, that he had apparently been misled, and suggested "that the responsibility for

decision rests, and must rest, with the Government, and that at least it cannot be said that they have not consulted all interests concerned."

27.—Sir Robert Sanders' idea of consultation with all interests concerned was deemed extremely unsatisfactory, and a joint meeting of the Business and Cattle Diseases Committees was called to consider the position and what action should be taken. It was decided to call a special meeting of the Council on 27th September, in order that any resolution adopted might be laid before the Imperial Economic Conference, which was to meet on 1st October.

28.—This Council meeting was, considering the very inconvenient time of year, well attended, and the following resolution was carried unanimously :—

"That this Council protest against the admission of any breeding stock from abroad, except such as is provided for (for exceptional purposes) in the Diseases of Animals Act, 1894."

Canadian Store Stock.

29.—On 6th November the Committee presented a report, which was adopted, quoting a complaint made by the Prime Minister of Canada to the Economic Conference, that Canadian store stock were not fairly dealt with by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, inasmuch as too many were, in his opinion, classed as fat stock and ordered as such to be slaughtered. The Committee said :—

"It may be urged that it is quite possible that one of the departmental officials was under-zealous in failing to classify one lot as fat stock ; but it may also be urged that the other official was over-zealous because he did so classify them. Your Committee, however, do not press that point ; but they do urge that the administration of the Importation of Animals Act, 1922, is a purely domestic matter, which no one but our own Department has any right to criticise."

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.

30.—The same report endorsed a resolution from the Cheshire Chamber, asking the Ministry to set up an inquiry into the recent outbreaks of this disease in Cheshire and the surrounding counties. The Council thereupon appointed

those members of the Council who came from the area involved to form a deputation from the Council to the Ministry. They were received by Sir Daniel Hall that afternoon, and their request for an inquiry, to be composed largely of local men, was acquiesced in.

MILK ORDERS.

31.—On 6th December a motion was unanimously adopted asking that before any Milk Orders became operative the advice of recognised agricultural associations should be sought.

32.—On 5th June a resolution was adopted *nem. con.* expressing general approval of the Interim Report of the Departmental Committee on Milk and Milk Products.

RAILWAY MATTERS.

33.—This Committee elected Sir Henry Rew as Chairman. It has held two meetings and presented two reports during the year.

34.—On 6th December, 1922, a resolution was carried protesting unanimously “against the present excessive charges imposed by railway companies on agricultural produce and requisites.”

35.—On 30th January a report was adopted pointing out that the Railways Act, 1921, the general stagnation in trade, and the resultant decrease of traffic carried by railways, made the rates for such traffic as is carried unduly high. Also that the increased use of roads for the transport of goods adds to the burdens of ratepayers. Excessive railway charges should therefore be modified in order to ensure fairer conditions.

36.—The same report protested against the exorbitant charges made for the carriage of live stock in crates.

Sunday Milk Trains.

37.—It also included the following paragraph :—

“Where there is no Sunday train service loss and inconvenience are caused to milk producers, some considerable areas, even on through lines, having no means of getting their milk to consignees

on Sundays. With a regular traffic and a perishable commodity like milk, your Committee consider it the duty of railway companies to provide transport on Sundays as on other days, even if it be only by goods train. The injury is to consumers as well as to producers, as the milk from such areas is either lost to them altogether or reaches them many hours later than it should do."

Agricultural Tribunal's Suggestion.

38.—On 1st May a further report was adopted. It objected to the recommendation of the Agricultural Tribunal (*viz.*, that if the Railway Tribunal was unable to make a substantial reduction in the cost of transport of agricultural produce the Government should take the financial responsibility of a reduction of not less than 25 per cent.) on the ground that various factors made it obvious that the railway companies must make a substantial reduction at an early date. In fact, a reduction was announced on 20th April, to take effect on 1st May, of from 75 per cent. to 50 per cent. above pre-war rates. This was an actual reduction of about 14 per cent. The Committee pointed out that as railway rates are imposed on the basis of "what the traffic will bear," the general fall in the value of agricultural products renders even the reduced rate quite disproportionate to present values.

Breed Societies' Sales and Poultry Shows.

39.—This report also urged that the companies should apply the same conditions and charges for animals and their attendants to and from Breed Societies' Shows and Sales as to other Agricultural Shows. It further protested against the companies insisting upon the prepayment of return charges on poultry sent to Shows.

Local Joint Conferences.

40.—The Railways Act, 1921, provides for the setting up of local joint conferences, consisting of representatives of railway companies on the one hand, and of traders and agriculturists on the other. At a preliminary meeting held in April, convened by the Association of Chambers of Commerce, the Central Chamber was represented by Sir Henry Rew, who then proposed that when local conferences were

being started local Chambers of Agriculture should be invited to take part. This suggestion was approved, and during succeeding months the following local conferences have been set up or are in process of formation, and the local Chambers named have been invited to associate themselves with the movement :—

Name of area.	Local Chambers invited.
East Anglia	Norfolk and Suffolk Chambers and South Essex Farmers' Union
South-West Wales ..	Glamorganshire Chamber
Cardiff	Glamorganshire Chamber
West Riding	Yorkshire Union
Sheffield	Yorkshire Union
Birmingham	Birmingham and Worcestershire Chambers
Kent, Surrey and Sussex	Canterbury Farmers' Club, Rye Farmers' Club, and Sussex County Agricultural Society
London	Central Chamber
Southampton	Fareham Farmers' Club, Winchester Agricultural Association, Isle of Wight Agricultural Society
Bristol	Taunton Agricultural Club
Northampton	Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, and Northamptonshire Chambers

41.—The Railway Committee's report of 1st May said on this matter :—

“ The scheme is still in a provisional and tentative form, but your Committee raise no objection to the principle, which may afford means whereby complaints and suggestions may be discussed and adjustments mutually agreed upon, with a minimum of formality and expense. They consider, however, that details of the scheme require very careful examination, and the functions of the conferences need to be clearly defined and limited.

“ It is understood that adhesion to this scheme does not derogate from the existing rights of agriculturists to make representations personally or through their organisations, either to the railway companies director to the Railway Rates Tribunal.

“ While desirous of co-operating in any scheme likely to provide better opportunities for the removal of difficulties in regard to railway rates and conditions, and accepting the principle of local conferences as a means to that end, your Committee are of opinion that the establishment of conferences based, not on areas, but on industries, is worthy of consideration. If a joint conference were formed consisting of representatives of all the national agricultural organisations—including those representing particular branches of farming, *e.g.*, dairying, fruit growing, &c.—with representatives

of all the railway companies, it appears to your Committee that it would form a body which could deal with many important questions of common interest to agriculturists."

42.—On 5th June a report from the Business Committee called attention to—

The Railways (Authorisation of Works) Bill.

Sec. 15 of the Railways Act, 1921, empowered the Ministry of Transport to authorise any railway company to carry out "alterations and extensions and improvements of existing works as will not involve in any one case an expenditure exceeding one hundred thousand pounds." Sec. 17 of the same Act provides that an order made by the Ministry of Transport may authorise the acquisition of land or easements, and the order may incorporate the Lands Clauses Act, modified or not at the pleasure of the Minister. These extraordinary powers vested in an individual Minister, though possibly not unprecedented in some war emergency legislation, are subversive of parliamentary government, if permitted to be continued in normal times, and your Committee are of opinion that such provisions ought to be repealed without delay.

Instead of a proposal for repeal, your Committee regret to report that the Railways (Authorisation of Works) Bill, which is a Government measure, and has already passed the House of Lords, extends the provision of the Railways Act from a limit of one hundred thousand pounds to half a million pounds. We therefore recommend that any further progress of the Bill be carefully watched.

It is true that Clause 2 of the Bill limits its operation to two years—"unless Parliament otherwise provides"—but it is so easy to prolong the life of measures of this kind by inclusion in some larger Bill at the end of a session, when opposition is impracticable, that this limit is no safeguard at all.

Procedure Regarding Orders.

43.—On 10th July the Parliamentary Committee reported that a letter from the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Transport had been received, as a result of an interview between him and Sir Herbert Matthews, explaining that the object of the measure was to facilitate the relief of unemployment; it was thereupon decided that no opposition should be offered to the Bill.

44.—An interesting point of parliamentary procedure was brought into prominence in connection with the subject dealt with in the last two paragraphs. Section 17 of the Railways

Act, 1921, if read with Section 29 of the Ministry of Transport Act, 1919, provides—

“That the Minister, before making an Order, shall send to the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons a copy of the draft Order, and that if either of such Chairmen reports to the Minister that he is of opinion that the proposals of the draft Order are of such a character or magnitude that they ought not to be proceeded with without the authority of Parliament, the Minister shall not make the Order unless or until that draft Order has been approved by a resolution passed by both Houses of Parliament.”*

45.—Now this provision gives something like a chance for members of both Houses to criticise or to object to a draft Order issued under this section of the Railways Act. It is not quite satisfactory, because it is optional on the part of either of the two Chairmen to say whether a resolution is necessary. To be quite effective, there should be no option, but a resolution should be necessary for every Order.

46.—This gives rise to a still larger question. Why should not this method be applied to all Rules, Regulations or Orders that have to be laid before Parliament? In theory the “laying of Orders” does give an opportunity for members to raise objections to them, but in practice it gives none in the House of Commons, and only a limited one in the House of Lords.

The Draft Regulations Bill.

47.—Sir Herbert Matthews has drafted a Bill, which provides for a resolution being required from both Houses for all Orders or Regulations except those dealing with infectious diseases. Such a measure will, of course, meet with strenuous opposition from the Government Whips of all parties, because it might be the means of filling up a good deal of parliamentary time. That may be a drawback from some points of view, but any difficulties it might create are not insurmountable. In any case adequate provision against bureaucracy is far more important than the convenience of party managers.

* Quoted from the letter from the Ministry of Transport dated 15th June, 1923.

Railway Fires Act, 1923.

48.—A Bill to amend the Act of 1905 by increasing the liability of a railway company from £100 to £200 for loss caused by fires originating from sparks from railway engines, was introduced by our ex-Chairman (Mr. Townley) in 1922. He carried the Bill through Committee, but was given no opportunity to make further progress. It was introduced again this year by the late Mr. Sparkes, M.P., and received the Royal Assent on 31st July.

MERCHANDISE MARKS BILL.

49.—On 27th February the Business Committee reported that Sir William Bird had obtained an early place in the ballot for Private Members' Bills, and had announced that he intended to introduce a Bill to provide for the identification of imported agricultural produce. As it was not then known upon what lines the Bill would be drawn, a hope was expressed that it would be modelled on the Agricultural Marks Bill, introduced on behalf of the Central Chamber for several years by Major Barnston, M.P., as that had been approved by the Council on more than one occasion. In the enforced absence of Sir William Bird, Captain Pretyma took charge of the Bill, which was read a second time on 16th March, a motion to postpone the Bill for six months being negatived by 183 to 100.

50.—When printed, it was found that the Bill differed in several very material respects from the Agricultural Marks Bill of earlier years, so the Parliamentary Committee presented a report, which was unanimously adopted, suggesting a number of amendments for Committee stage. These were not favourably received by those in charge of the Bill, and were not put forward. On 5th June the Business Committee reported :—

“ That this Bill is still under consideration by Standing Committee C, where it has met with persistent organised obstruction from a small group of five or six members. Captain Pretyma may be congratulated on the courtesy with which he has met this obstruction, but it is regrettable that a measure so much needed in the interests of both consumers and producers should be jeopardised by a few opponents whose reasons, judging from their speeches, are most obscure.”

51.—The Bill emerged from Committee on 5th July with very slight amendments, having been under consideration since 24th April. Such is the power of obstruction in the hands of three or four determined men. Before the adjournment of the House in August the Government gave an indication that facilities for the Bill to proceed might be granted.

52.—The Agricultural Tribunal, in its report dated 29th March, recommended legislation on the lines of this Bill.

IMPROVED PARCELS POST AND TELEPHONES.

53.—On 30th January Sir Rider Haggard moved a resolution, similar to one he moved in March, 1903, urging an extension of and greater facilities in connection with the parcel post. The motion was carried and a Special Committee was set up to carry the matter further. The object of rural telephones was also referred to this Committee.

54.—This Committee presented its report on 27th March. It asked for an increase in the weight allowed from eleven to sixteen pounds, for a reduced scale of charges, and for the extension of the cash-on-delivery system to internal traffic, it being already allowed on external traffic coming into the country. With regard to telephones, it urged that a call box be placed in each post office in a village where a telephone or telegraph service exists, and also in each passenger railway station. The report was adopted, and a deputation nominated to wait on the Postmaster-General.

55.—Sir William Joynson-Hicks received this deputation on 18th April and listened with a lively sympathy to all that the speakers had to say. Unfortunately, changes in the Cabinet caused a change in the Post Office, and no further progress has been made. In his reply Sir William Joynson-Hicks repeated what has been stated before, viz., that the Post Office were quite ready to establish the cash-on-delivery system, but it was strongly opposed by traders in rural towns and villages, as well as by Chambers of Commerce.

WEATHER FORECASTS.

56.—This matter was raised in the Council on 27th February and referred to local Chambers. It aroused little interest among them, but the Council adopted a motion in favour of prompt circulation of forecasts. It was also put before the Postmaster-General by the deputation referred to in the last paragraph, when circulation by wireless was discussed.

AGRICULTURAL CREDITS ACT.

57.—The report of the Departmental Committee on Agricultural Credit was considered by the Council on 27th March, when Mr. H. T. Hincks moved that their recommendations, with the additions and alterations suggested by the Council, demand the immediate attention of the Government. This was carried unanimously, as were the following alterations, also moved by Mr. Hincks :—

1.—The period of redemption is too short, and the sinking fund is consequently too high. Not more than one-half per cent. should be allowed for sinking fund. This, on the $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. tables, would take about fifty-two years for repayment.

2.—That the suggested limit for advances of 75 per cent. of present day value is too small, and that it should be increased to not less than 85 per cent.

3.—That expenses in connection with loans should not exceed :—For valuer's, legal and stamp charges, 1 per cent. on first thousand, $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on next four thousand, $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. on any additional sum.

4.—The quarter per cent. to be paid by borrowers for risks incurred by the Government in guaranteeing the loan is unnecessary.

5.—No conditions will be fair to farmers or accepted by the majority of them if the annual sum in interest and repayment of capital and expenses exceed 5 per cent.

6.—That facilities must be given to farmers enabling them to sell their interest in the farm, at any time, subject to the mortgage, and subject to revaluation if necessary.

7.—That power be reserved to borrowers to repay the balance of the mortgage on giving three months' notice.

SCHEDULE A. VALUATION 1923-4.

58.—This matter was before the Council on 1st May. Occupiers were advised as a matter of courtesy to communicate with their landlords and agents on receipt of the notice

of assessment. The Central Chamber offered to give any advice in connection with this subject to any member of the Central or any Associated Chamber on application.

MISCELLANEOUS.

59.—*Rabbits Bill*: motion carried unanimously, asking for a measure on the lines of the Bill of 1922. *Poultry Research*: motion carried *nem. con.* approving scheme and asking local Chambers to support the fund being raised for purposes of research (6th December). *Protesting Against Subsidy on Exported Australian Meat*: carried *nem. con.* *Reduction in Beer Duty asked for*: carried unanimously. *Duty on Imported Flour and Exported Offals asked for*: carried with one dissentient (30th January). *Extended Powers to Enable Ministry to Deal with Injurious Weeds asked for*: carried *nem. con.* (27th February). Discussion on *Sugar Beet*; *Reduction of Emoluments of Staff of Ministry of Agriculture*: carried (27th March). *Ministry of Agriculture should be Promoted to First-class Rank*: carried. *Regret that Government are not Giving Further Effect to Recommendations of Agricultural Tribunal*: carried (1st May). *Government Urged to Check Importation of Potatoes from the Continent*: carried unanimously (10th July).

HERBERT MATTHEWS,

11th December, 1923.

Secretary.

CENTRAL CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBING MEMBERS.

Honorary Members.

- BOWEN-JONES, Sir J. Bowen, Bt., Council House Court, Shrewsbury.
 CRAIGIE, Major P. G., C.B., Avenue House, Lymestone, Devon.
 KIDNER, S., The Elms, Milverton, Somerset.
 LATHAM, Thos., The Limes, Westwood Road, Tylehurst, Reading.
 MIDDLETON, Chris, Vane Terrace, Darlington.
 *REW, Sir R. Henry, K.C.B., 14a, Idlesleigh House, Caxton Street, S.W. 1.

Life Patrons.

- BEDFORD, Duke of, Woburn Abbey, Beds.
 WESTMINSTER, Duke of, Eaton Hall, Chester.
 DERBY, Rt. Hon. Earl of, Knowsley, Prescott, Lancs.
 NORTHBROOK, Earl of, Stratton, Micheldever, Hants.
 HAMBLEDEN, Viscount, Greenlands, Henley-on-Thames.
 AILWYN, Rt. Hon. Lord, Honingham Hall, Norwich.
 BLEDISLOE, Lord, Lydney Park, Glos.
 FARINODON, Lord, Buscot Park, Faringdon, Berks.
 STRUTT, Hon. Edward, Whitelands, Witham, Essex.
 COOPER, Sir R. A., Bt., 6, Carlton Gardens, S.W. 1.
 BRASSEY, R. B., Cottesbrooke Hall, Northampton.
 CURRE, Col. W. E. C., Itton Court, Chepstow, Mon.
 FARMER, S. W., Little Bedwyn, Wilts.
 MORRISON, Hugh, Fonthill House, Tisbury, Wilts.
 *SUTTON, Martin H., Erleigh Park, Whiteknights, Reading.
 TURNOR, Christopher, Stoke Rochford, Grantham.

*Member of Council.

†Life Member

- ABERDARE, Lord, Duffryn, Mountain Ash, Glamorganshire.
 ACLAND, Rt. Hon. F. Dyke, M.P., 5, Barton Street, S.W. 1.
 AGNEW, Sir G. W., Bart., Rougham Hall, Bury St. Edmund's.
 *AKERS, A., Alvescot, Clanfield, Oxon.
 ALLSEBROOK, A., Frenches, Mark Cross, Sussex.
 *AMOS, A., M.B.E., Spring Grove, Wye, Kent.
 ANCASTER, Earl of, Eresby House, Rutland Gate, S.W. 7.
 ARIS, J. Whitton, Lois Weedon, Denbigh Gardens, Richmond, Surrey.
 ARKWRIGHT, J. S., 56, St. George's Square, S.W. 1.

ASHCOMBS, Lord, Deubies, Dorking.
 ASHTON OF HYDE, Lord, 39, Prince's Gardens, S.W. 7.
 ASTOR, Viscount, Cliveden, Bucks.

BACON, Sir Hickman, Bart., Thonock, Gainsborough.
 †BACON, Nicholas, Raveningham Hall, Norwich.
 BADCOCK, J., Comeytrowe House, Taunton.
 BAOOT, Lord, Blithfield, Rugeley, Staffordshire.
 BAGSHAW, L. B., Kettering.
 BALDEN, R. S. Bywell, Leeds Road, Dewsbury.
 BALDWIN, Rt. Hon. Stanley, M.P., 10, Downing Street, S.W. 1.
 †BANNISTER, M.D., Hayward's Heath.
 BARBER, A. M., Wellington, Salop.
 BARNBY, Lord, Blyth Hall, Blyth, Notts.
 *BARNSTON, Major H., M.P., Crewe Hill, Farndon, Cheshire.
 BARRINGTON, Viscount, Beckett, Shrivvenham, Berks.
 †BARRYMORE, Right Hon. Lord, Fota Island, Co. Cork.
 †BATH, The Marquis of, Longleat, Warminster.
 BATH, A., Ingledene, Private Road, Enfield, N.
 BECKETT, Major Hon. Sir G., Bt., M.P., 28, Great Cumberland Place, W. 1.
 BEETON, H. R., Hammonds, Checkendon, Reading.
 BEHRENS, W. H., 3, London Wall Buildings, E.C. 2.
 BENSON, J. F., Toppesfield Hall, Castle Hedingham, Essex.
 BENTINCK, Col. Lord Henry, M.P., 16, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W. 1.
 †BERRY, Sir W. W., K.B.E., Gushmere Court, Faversham.
 BETTERTON, H. B., M.P., 166, Ashley Gardens, S.W. 1.
 BISSY, Capt. F. B. F., Sansaw, Shrewsbury.
 BIRD, Sir Wm., Eartham, Nr. Chichester.
 BLUNDELL, F. N., M.P., Crosby Hall, Blundellsands, Liverpool.
 BLUNT, Col. A., Farthings, Milverton, Somerset.
 BOLES, Col. Sir D. F., Bt., Watts House, Bishop's Lydeard, Taunton.
 BOLTON, Lord, Wensley Hall, Leyburn, Yorks.
 BOURNE, R. Elliott, Elwell, Totnes.
 BRASSEY, Major Sir H. L. C., Bt., M.P., Apethorpe, Wansford, Northants.
 †BROOKLEBANK, Rev. C. H., Bartlow House, Nr. Cambridge.
 BROWN, Maj. D. Clifton, Ruffside Hall, Riding Mill, Northumberland.
 BROWN, Brig.-General H. Clifton, Holmbush, Faygate, Sussex.
 BROWN, G. Turville, 11, Little College Street, Westminster, S.W. 1.
 BRUCE, Lord Charles B., 11, Gloucester Gate, Regent's Park, N.W. 1.
 BRUFORD, R., Nerrols, Taunton.
 BURDON, Col. Rowland, Castle Eden, Co. Durham.
 BURSTON, W. H., Fitzroy-Norton, Taunton.
 BUTLER, Geo. G., Ewart Park, Wooler, Northumberland.
 BUTTON, H. S., Cedar House, Hillingdon, Uxbridge.

CALLEY, General T. G. P., Burderop Park, Swindon.
 CAMPION, Col. W. R., M.P., Danny, Hassocks, Sussex.
 CAPON, Frank, 20, Hanover Square, W. 1.
 CARLILE, Sir E. H., Bart., Manor House, Ponsbourne, Hertford.
 CARLILE, W. W., Gayhurst, Newport Pagnell.
 CARTER, A. H., 50, Mark Lane, E.C. 3.
 CARTER, C. G., The Agency, Englefield, Nr. Reading.
 CARTWRIGHT, Capt. H. A., Upwood, Sixpenny-Handley, Salisbury.
 CATOR, J., 52, Pont Street, S.W. 1.
 CAWLEY, Lord, Brooklands, Prestwich, Lancs.
 *CHANNING OF WELLINGBOROUGH, Lord, 40, Eaton Place, S.W. 1.
 CHAPMAN, T. B., Parkersfield, N. Petherton, Bridgwater.

- CHICHESTER, Earl of, Stanmer, Lewes.
 CHUTE, C. L., 11, King's Bench Walk, Temple, E.C. 4.
 CLARK, W. F., Hansletts, Ospringe, Faversham.
 CLATWORTHY, E., Cutsey, Trull, Taunton.
 CLAVERING, Col. C. W. Napier, Axwell Park, Blaydon-on-Tyne.
 CLAY, Lt.-Col. H. Spender, M.P., Ford Manor, Lingfield, Surrey.
 CLAY CROSS Co., Ltd., Claycross, Derbyshire.
 CLEMENTS, H. W., Boughton Aluph, Ashford, Kent.
 CLINTON, Lord, Heanton Satchville, Dolton, N. Devon.
 †COCK, R. E., Whitgift Hall Farm, Reedness, Gooale.
 COLLARD, Allington, Reculvers, Herne Bay.
 COLTHUP, E. J., Howletts, Chilham, Canterbury.
 COLTHUP, Wm., Hopebourne, Harbledown, Canterbury.
 COOPER, Geo., Bourn, Cambridge.
 CORBETT, C. H., Woodgate, Danehill, Sussex.
 CORNISH, Dr. Charles, Pixford, Bishop-Lydeard, Taunton.
 *COURTHOPE, Lt.-Col. G. L., M.P., Whiligh, Sussex.
 †COWARD, E., Roundway, Devizes.
 COX, Percy W., Coombe Farm, Maidstone.
 CREWE, Marquis of, Crewe House, Curzon Street, W. 1.
 CROFT, Brig.-Gen. H. Page, M.P., 15, Southwell Gardens, S.W. 7.
 CROSS, F. J. K., Aston-Tirrold Manor, Wallingford.
- DARBY, A. E. W., Adcote, Shrewsbury.
 DARNLEY, Earl of, Cobham Hall, Cobham, Kent.
 DARTMOUTH, Rt. Hon. Earl of, Patshull, Wolverhampton.
 DAVIES, Major David, M.P., Plas Dinan, Llandinam, Mont.
 †DAVIES, Jos., Spring Cottage, Dinas-Powis, Glam.
 DEACON, J. F. W., Mabledon, Tonbridge, Kent.
 DENBIGH, Earl of, Newnham Paddox, Lutterworth (Warwickshire).
 DENNIS, J. W., 19, St. James's Square, S.W. 1.
 DENT, Major J. W., Ribston Hall, Wetherby, Yorkshire.
 †DESBOROUGH, Lord, Taplow Court, Taplow, Bucks.
 DETERING, Sir H. W., Kelling Hall, Kelling, Holt, Norfolk.
 DE VITRE, G. L. Dennis, Coombe Hurst, Yattendon, Berks.
 DEVONSHIRE, Rt. Hon. Duke of, Chatsworth, Derbyshire.
 DIMSDALE, Baron C. R. S., Meesdon, Buntingford.
 †DISRAELI, Major Coningsby R., Hughenden Manor, High Wycombe.
 DOWNE, Viscount, Dingley, Market Harborough, Northants.
 DU PRE, Col. W., Wilton Park, Beaconsfield.
 *DYER, Dr. Bernard, 17, Great Tower Street, E.C. 3.
 DYKE, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart, Bart., Lullingstone Castle, Dartford.
- EARLE, Lt.-Col. T. A., Pangbourne Lodge, Pangbourne, Berks.
 EDWARDS, W. H., Preston Bowyer, Milverton, Somerset.
 ELGAR, F. M., Wingham Agri. Co., Wingham, Canterbury.
 ELGAR, C. J., Dean, Wingham, Canterbury.
 ELGAR, W. R., The Limes, Sittingbourne.
 ELVEDEN, Viscount, M.P., 11, St. James's Square, S.W. 1.
 ELWES, H. T., Gwernhaylod, Overton, Ellesmere, Salop.
 ENGLAND, Wm., Coniston, Hull.
 ENGLAND, W., Quantock Farm, West Monckton, Taunton.
 ERNLE, Rt. Hon. Lord, 3, Cheyne Walk, S.W. 3.
 EVENS, John, Burton, Lincoln.
 *EVE, Sir H. Trustram, K.B.E., 2, The Sanctuary, Westminster, S.W. 1.
 EYRE, Geo., 18, Redcliffe Square, S.W. 10.

- EYRES-MONSELL, Com. B., M.P., 19, Belgrave Square, S.W. 1.
 †EYTON, C. E. Morris, Wood-Eaton Manor, Stafford.
- *FAIRFAX-LUCY, Sir Hy., Bart., Charlecote Park, Warwick.
 FALCONER, Jas., Northbrook Farm, Micheldever Station, Hants.
 FISHER, C. B., Market Harborough.
 FITZALAN OF DERWENT, Rt. Hon. Viscount, 1, Buckingham Palace Gardens, S.W. 1.
 FITZHERBERT-BROCKHOLES, W., C.B.E., 12, Paulton's Square, Chelsea, S.W. 3.
 FLANNERY, Sir Fortescue, Bt., Wethersfield Manor, Essex.
 FORESTER, Lord, Willey Park, Broseley, Shropshire.
 FORSELL, Jno. T., Winkadale, Bushby, Leicester.
 FORTUNE, R., Newhouse, Cranleigh, Surrey.
 FRANCIS, T. M., Quy Hall, Cambridge.
 FRANK, Sir Howard, Bt., 20, Hanover Square, W. 1.
 FREMLIN, W. T., Milgate Park, Maidstone, Kent.
 †FULLER, R. F., Great Chelfield, Melksham, Wilts.
- GARDNER, Ernest, Spencers, Maidenhead.
 GARDNER, H. C., Ombersley, Droitwich.
 GARNIER, J. Carpenter, Rookesbury Park, Fareham.
 GARTSIDE-TIPPING, Col. R., East India United Service Club, 16, St. James's Square, S.W. 1.
 GAUNTLETT, Wm. B., Collingbourne-Kingston, Marlborough, Wilts.
 †GIBBINS, W. B., Ettington, Stratford-on-Avon.
 GIBBONS, J. S., Boddington Manor, Cheltenham.
 GILLHAM, Hy., Long Run, Bishops Hall, Taunton.
 GLAMIS, Lord, Streatlam Castle, Darlington.
 *GRANT, W. J., 42, Llanthewy Road, Newport, Mon.
 GREEN, R. H., The Warren, Willesborough, Ashford, Kent.
 GREEN, Sir J. L., 2, Belmont Park, Lee, S.E.
 GREENALL, Sir Gilbert, Bart., C.V.O., Walton Hall, Warrington.
 GREENWELL, Sir Bernard, Bt., Marden Park, Surrey.
 GREY, Rt. Hon. Viscount, Falloden, Northumberland.
 GUILFORD, Earl of, Waldershare Park, Dover.
 GURNEY, Sir Eustace, Sprowston Hall, Norwich.
- HAGGARD, Sir H. Rider, Ditchingham House, Norfolk.
 HAMBRO, Capt. Angus V., Milton Abbey, Dorchester, Dorset.
 HANCOCK, H., The Court, Milverton, Somerset.
 HARLECH, Lord, Bragynutyn, Oswestry.
 HARMSWORTH, C. B., 28, Montagu Square, W. 1.
 HARRIS, Lord, Belmont, Faversham.
 HARRISON, F. P., Castle Hotel, Taunton.
 HARRISON, Mrs., O.B.E., Maer Hall, near Newcastle, Staffs.
 HARRISON, Wm., 57, Hanover Park Mansions, Park Road, N.W. 1.
 HASTINGS, Lord, Melton Constable, Swanton-Novers, Norfolk.
 HATHERELL, C. E. G., Radford House, Leamington.
 HAVELOCK-ALLAN, Sir H. S. M., Bt., Blackwell Grange, Darlington.
 HAYMAN, J., St. Decumans, Watchet, Taunton.
 HENN, Sir S. H. H., M.P., Ixworth Court, Bedford.
 HINCEES, Capt. R. T., Foxley, Hereford.
 HINCKS, H. T., Keyham, Leicester.
 HINDLIP, Lord, Hindlip Hall, Worcester.
 †HOBHOUSE, Sir C. E. H., Bart., Monkton-Farleigh, Bradford-on-Avon.
 HOLMAN, Michael, Restronguet, Penryn, Cornwall.
 HORNE, W. E., 110, Mount Street, W. 1.
 HOWARD, Hon. G., M.P., 75, Sussex Gardens, W. 2.

HOWE, Earl, 34, Curzon Street, W.1.
 HUBBLE, W. L., The Orhards, Hernehill, Faversham.
 HUNT, A. R., Manor House, Culpho, Ipswich.
 HUNTER, Gen. Sir A. G., K.C.B., D.S.O., 11, Upper Grosvenor Street W. 1.
 HURLE, J. C., Brislington Hill, Bristol.
 HUSTLER, W. H., Acklam Hall, Middlesbrough.

ILCHESTER, Earl of, Melbury House, Dorchester.
 ISLINGTON, Rt. Hon. Lord, 20, Portman Square, W. 1.
 ISMAY, J. H., Iwerne Minster House, Blandford.
 †IVEAUGH, Earl, K.P., Elvedon, Thetford.

JAMES, Geo. H., Douce Grove, Northiam, Sussex.
 †JENKINS, C. E., Cruckton, Shrewsbury.
 JENKINS, Wm., The Porch, Westhide, Hereford.
 JERSEY, Earl of, Middleton Park, Bicester.
 JODRELL, Sir N. P., The Albany, W.1.
 JOICEY, Lord, Loughirst, Northumberland.
 JONAS AND SONS, Messrs. J. Carter, Land Agents, Cambridge.
 JONES, Rt. Hon. Leif, M.P.
 JOSLIN, H., Gaynes Park, Upminster, Essex.

*KELLY, Major Dunbar, Godington, Ashford, Kent.
 KENDERDINE, Sir C. H., K.B.E., 7, Chester Square, S.W. 1.
 KIDNER, J., Estayne House, Wellington Road, Taunton.
 KING, H., Broom, Biggleswade.
 KNIGHT, Col. L. C., Chawton House, Alton, Hants.

LAMB, E. G., Borden Wood, Liphook, Hants.
 LANDER, W. H., Tibberton, Newport, Salop.
 LANDS IMPROVEMENT CO., 1, Great George Street, S.W. 1.
 LANE-FOX, Major G., M.P., Hope Hall, Bramham, Yorkshire.
 LEEDS, Duke of, Hornby Castle, Bedale, Yorks.
 LEIGH, A. M. R., Adlington, Macclesfield.
 LEICESTER, Earl of, Holkam Hall, Norfolk.
 LEON, Sir H. S., Bt., Bletchley Park, Bucks.
 *LE ROY-LEWIS, Col. H., C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., Westbury House, Petersfield.
 LEVERHULME, Viscount, Thornton Hough, Cheshire.
 LIPSCOMB, G., Twyn-gr-Nydd, Margam, Port Talbot, Glamorganshire.
 LLEWELYN, Sir John T. D., Bt., Penllergaer, Swansea.
 LLOYD-GREAME, Col. Y. G., Sowerby House, Bridlington, Yorks.
 LOCKE-BLAKE, Col. M. Bridge, South Petherton, Somerset.
 LODER, Reg. B., Maidwell Hall, Northants.
 LONDONDERRY, Marquis of, Londonderry House, Park Lane, W.
 LONG, Rt. Hon. Viscount, 17, Ennismore Gardens, S.W. 7.
 LONSDALE, Earl of, Barley Thorpe, Oakham.
 LOPES, Sir H. Y. B., Bt., Maristow, Roborough, Devon.
 LOWTHER, Major Christopher, Westwood, Mayfield, Sussex.
 LOYD, A. Thomas, Lockinge House, Wantage, Berks.

MACIVER, Colin, Blaisdon Hall, Longhope, Gloucester.
 MACKENZIE, K. J. J., 10, Richmond Road, Cambridge.
 †MAJOR, Thos., 14, Potato Market, G.N.R., York Road, King's Cross, N. 1.
 *MALCOLMSON, V. A., Aston Bury, Stevenage, Herts.
 MALLABY-DEELEY, Sir H. C., Bt., Mitcham Court, Surrey.
 MARPLES, Major J. H., Manor Farm, Caldby, near West Kirby, Cheshire.

‡MARTIN, Sir R. B., Bt., Overbury Court, Tewkesbury.
 MASON, J. F., 16, Bruton Street, W. 1.
 MAY, W. A., 3, Southampton Street, Strand, W.C.
 MERSON, T., Farringdon, Bridgewater.
 MERTON COLLEGE, Oxford.
 MILDMAY, Rt. Hon. Lord, Flete, Ivybridge, Devon.
 MILLER, S. W., Copton Manor, Faversham.
 MILNER, Rt. Hon. Sir F. G., Bt.
 MITCHELL, Chas., Pallinsburn, Cornhill-on-Tweed.
 MOLSON, Maj. J. E., Goving Hall, Worthing.
 MORRIS, Chas., Highfield Hall, St Albans.
 MORRIS, J., Conquest, Norton-Fitzwarren, Taunton.
 MORRISON, Major J. A., D.S.O., Basilden Park, Reading.
 MORRISON-BELL, Major A. C., M.P., 7, Great Cumberland Place, W. 1.
 ‡MOUNT, Sir W. A., Bt., C.B.E., Wasing Place, Reading.
 MULLINS, A. J., Ansford Farm, Castle-Cary, Som.
 MURRAY, J. G., Wrest Park, Ampthill, Beds.

NEAME, Frederick, Macknade, Faversham, Kent.
 NEW COLLEGE, Oxford.
 NEWLANDS, Lord, Mauldslee Castle, Carlisle, Lanarkshire.
 NEWTON, Sir G. Douglas, K.B.E., M.P., Croxton Park, St. Neots, Cambs.
 ‡NICHOLSON, Col. W. G., M.P., Basing Park, Alton, Hants.
 NORMAN, K., Thurlockston, Taunton.

*O'HAGAN, Major Lord, 16, Eaton Square, S.W. 1.
 *ORLEBAR, Lt.-Col. R. R. B., Hinwick House, Wellingborough.
 ORWIN, C. S., School of Rural Economy, Oxford.

PACKARD, Sir E., Bramford, Ipswich.
 PADWICK, H., C.B.E., Red House, Ashling, Chichester.
 PAIN, R. T., Ryll Court, Exmouth, Devon.
 PALMER, Brig-Gen. G. L.
 PALMER, Sir Geoffrey, Bart., Withcote Hall, Oakham.
 PARMOOR, Rt. Hon. Lord, Parmoor, Henley-on-Thames.
 PATTERSON, R. G., Acton Hill, Stafford.
 ‡PEMBROKE, Earl of, Wilton House, Salisbury.
 *PENBERTHY, Prof. John, Dean Hall, Newnham, Glos.
 PETHERICK, G. Tellack, Porthpean, St. Austell, Cornwall.
 PHILLIPPS, C. J., Old Dalby Hall, Melton Mowbray.
 PILKINGTON, Claude M. S., Woolaton, Nottingham.
 PLUMPTRE, H. Fitzwalter, Goodnestone Park, near Canterbury.
 PLUNKETT, Rt. Hon. Sir Horace, 105, Mount Street, W. 1.
 PORTAL, Sir Wm W., Bart., Laverstoke House, Witchchurch, Hants.
 PORTER, W. J. H., Clundale, Wedmore, Somerset.
 PRETTYMAN, Rt. Hon. E. G., Orwell Park, Ipswich.
 ‡PRICE, F. Hamlyn, 7, Harley Gardens, S.W. 10.
 PRICHARD, H. L., Estate Office, Penrice Castle, Reynoldston, R.S.O., Glam.
 PROBY Col. D. J., Elton Hall, Peterborough.

QUESTED, J. B., Cheriton, Folkestone.
 *QUESTED, J. E., Cheriton, Folkestone.

RAPHAEL, Sir H. H., Bt.
 REA, G. G., Doddington, Wooler, Northumberland.
 ‡REMINGTON, J. S., Aynsome, Grange-over-Sands, Carnforth.
 RENTON, Major L., Naseby Hall, Rugby.

- RICE, H. E. H., North Court, Eastry, Dover.
 ROBERTS, F. F., British Basic Slag, 15, Philpot Lane, E.C.
 ROUNDELL, Lt.-Col. R. F., M.P., 219, Knightsbridge, S.W. 7.
 ROYDS, Col. E., 46, Bedford Square, W.C. 1.
 RUTHERFORD, Col. Sir J., Bt., Beardwood, Blackburn.
 RUTLAND, Duke of, Belvoir Castle, Grantham.
 RYOROFF, Sir Rd., Bart., Dummer House, Basingstoke.
- SADLER, J., Holmleigh, Wlston, Nantwich.
 ST. JOHN, Lord, Melchbourne Park, Beds.
 SANDON, Viscount, 10, Upper Belgrave Street, S.W. 1.
 SANDERS, Col. Rt. Hon. Sir R. A., Bt., The Court, Exford, Taunton.
 SANDYS, Capt. G. J.
 SANER, G. A., Norsey Farm, Billericay, Essex.
 SAUNDERS, C. Ford, Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton.
 *SELBORNE, Rt. Hon. Earl of, K.G., Blackmoor, Liss, Hants.
 SHAFTESBURY, Earl of, St. Giles House, Cranbourne, Dorset.
 SHARPE, Messrs., and Co., Ltd., Sleaford, Lincs.
 SHEFFIELD, Sir Berkeley, Bt., M.P., Normanby Park, Doncaster.
 *SHELLEY-ROLLS, Sir J. C. E., Bt., Avington, Alresford, Hants.
 *SIMMONS, Sir W. Anker, K.B.E., Henley-on-Thames.
 SIMPSON, J., Hope, M.P., Blagroves, Oake, Taunton.
 SIMPSON, Thos. Hope, Blagroves, Oake, Taunton.
 SINGLETON, J. E., Howick House, Nr. Preston.
 SMITH, Abel Henry, Woodhall Park, Hertford.
 SMITH, Gilbert, Ardentallen, Oban, Argyllshire.
 SMITH, R. H., West Newton, Bridgwater.
 ‡SOWERBY, J. P., Stokesley, Yorks.
 SOWREY, John, Yeoveney, Staines, Middlesex.
 STACEY, Alic., The Lodge, High Wycombe.
 STANLEY, Lord, M.P., 3, Portman Square, W. 1.
 STANLEY, Hon. Sir A. L., K.C.M.G., 1, Gloucester Square, W. 2.
 STEED, J. O., Long Melford, Suffolk.
 STEEL, Alec., Prittlewell Temple, Southend.
 STEEL, Major Strang, M.P., 39, Portman Square, W.
 STEVENS, Col. F. A., Bedford.
 STEWART, G., Conservative Club, S.W. 1.
 STRACHEY, R. S., Ashwick Grove, Oak Hill, Bath.
 *STRACHIE, Rt. Hon. Lord, Sutton Court, Peusford, Bristol
 ‡STRADBROKE, Earl of (Governor of Victoria).
 STRAUSS, E. A., 49, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.
 STRUTT, Hon. C. H., Blunt's Hall, Witham, Essex.
 SUMMERHAYES, J., Norton Fitzwarren, Taunton.
 ‡SUTTON, A. F. Martin, Erlegh Park, Reading.
 SWINFEN-BROWN, Col. M. A., J.P., D.L., Swinfen Hall, Lichfield.
 SYKES, Col. Sir A. J., Bt., 2, Down Street, W. 1.
 SYKES, A. H., Roveries Hall, Church Stoke, Mont.
 ‡SYKES, Lt.-Col. H. P., Lougford Hall, Newport, Salop.
- TATTON, R. A., Cuerden Hall, Preston.
 TEMPLE, Earl, Newton Park, Bath.
- THOMSON, J. H., Heathfield, Taunton.
 *THOMSON, Tom, Legomery House, Wellington, Salop.
 TIDSWELL, Rd. H., J.P., Bosmere Hall, Needham Market.
 TIPPER, L. C., Ribbesford, Wake Green, Moseley, Birmingham.

TOWNLEY, Rev. C. F., Fulborne Manor, Cambridge.

*TOWNLEY, M. G., Heydon House, Royston, Herts.

TREDEGAR, Lord, Tredegar Park, Newport, Mon.

TREOWEN, Lord, 9, Great Stanhope Street, W. 1.

TURTON, E. R., M.P., Upsall Castle, Thirsk.

†TURTON, R. B., Kildale Hall, Grosmont, Yorks.

VALENTIA, Viscount, Bletchington Park, Oxford.

VEITCH, H. Morgan, Norfolk House, Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C. 2.

VERNEY, Sir H., Bt., Claydon House, Steeple Claydon S.O., Bucks.

‡VERULAM, Earl of, Sopwell, St. Albans.

WAINWRIGHT, T., The Cowgreaves, Bridgnorth, Salop.

WALLACE, W. E., Eaton Bray, Luton.

WALLACE, W. H., Eaton Bray, Luton.

‡WARNER, Col. Sir T. C. T., Bart., Brettenham Park, Suffolk.

WATSON, W. S., Lowe Hill, near Leek, Staffs.

WEICALL, Lt.-Col. Sir A., Petwood, Woodhall Spa, Lincs.

‡WELBY, Sir C. G. E., Bt., C.B., Denton Manor, Grantham.

WHARNCLIFFE, Earl of, Wortley Hall, Sheffield.

*WHEELER, Major G. H., M.P., Otterden Place, near Faversham.

WHETHAM, C. Dampier, F.R.S., Upwater Lodge, Cambridge.

WHITAKER, Ingham, Pylewell, Lymington, Hants.

WHITE, T. L., Escot Farm, Stogumber, Taunton.

WHITWORTH, J. B., Victoria Mills, Wellingborough.

WILKES, J. F., Elmdon Bury, Saffron Walden.

WILLIAMS, Colonel Sir R., Bt., Bridehead, Dorchester.

WILLIAMS, Chas., Greenway, Churston-Ferrers, S. Devon.

WILLS, Lt.-Col. Sir Gilbert, Bart., Northmoor, Dulverton.

WILSON, Col. Murrough J., M.P., Cliffe Hall, Darlington.

WINCH, W. F., Baker's Cross House, Cranbrook, Kent.

WINGFIELD, A., Ampthill House, Ampthill, Beds.

WINTERTON, Major Earl, M.P., Shillinglee Park, Petworth, Sussex.

‡WOLFERSTAN, Lt.-Col. E. S. P., Statfold, Tamworth.

WOOD, Alfred, 6, Lancaster Place, Wellington Street, W.C. 2.

WOOD, Major Rt. Hon. E., M.P., 88, Eaton Square, S.W. 1.

WOOD, E. A., 2, Lowther Street, Carlisle.

WOOD, S. Leslie, High Street, East Grinstead.

WOODS, Col. Wm., J.P., Warnford Park, Bishop's Waltham, Hants.

YARBOROUGH, Earl of, Brocklesby, Ulceby, Lincolnshire.

YOUNG, Mark, Sandy, Beds.

Chambers of Agriculture and other Bodies in Association with the Central Chamber.

CHAMBER.	No. of DEPUTIES.	SECRETARY.
AGRICULTURAL PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (ORMSKIRK DIVISION)	1	J. Hulme, Burscough-street, Ormskirk
AYLESBURY AND DISTRICT FARMERS' ASSOCIATION	1	J. H. Coales, Solicitor, Aylesbury
BEDFORDSHIRE	2	Capt. F. J. Peacock, 10, Lime-st., Bedford
BERKS AND OXON	1	Sir W. Anker Simmons (Hon. Sec.) W. R. Alexander, 39, Blagrove-street, Reading (Sec.)
BERKS AND ADJOINING COUNTIES DAIRY FARMERS' ASSOCIATION	1	T. Chettle, Manor Farm, Reading (Hon. Sec.) H. L. Butler, 20, Blagrove-street, Reading (Sec.)
BIRMINGHAM	1	G. H. Wright, 95, New-st., Birmingham
BLACKPOOL AND DISTRICT DAIRY FARMERS' ASSOCIATION	1	R. Bibby, 9, Topping-street, Blackpool
BRITISH DAIRY FARMERS' ASSOCIATION	1	The Secretary, 23, Russell-square, W.C.
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	2	J. Terry, 2, Rickford's-hill, Aylesbury, Bucks.
CANTERBURY FARMERS' CLUB AND EAST KENT CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE	3	E. L. Gardener, 69, Castle-street, Canterbury
CENTRAL LANDOWNERS' ASSOCIATION	1	R. S. Gardiner, 46a, Pall Mall, S.W. 1
CHESHIRE	2	Jas. Sadler, Holmleigh, Wistaston, Nantwich
CIRENCESTER	1	Robert Wm. Ellett, Cirencester
CLEVELAND	1	C. Middleton, Vane-terrace, Darlington
CRAVEN TENANT FARMERS' ASSOCIATION	1	T. W. Dean, Castle Chambers, Skipton
CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND FARMERS' PROTECTION SOCIETY	1	G. W. Gilbanks, Central Buildings, Corn Market, Penrith
DARLINGTON, DURHAM, & NORTH RIDING ESSEX (SOUTH) FARMERS' UNION	3	R. C. Pearce, Central Hall, Darlington
FAREHAM & HAMPSHIRE FARMERS' CLUB	1	A. H. Symons, 67, South-street, Romford
FARMERS' CLUB, THE (LONDON)	2	Lt.-Col. A. Wyatt, O.B.E., 79, High-street, Fareham, Hants.
GLAMORGANSHIRE	2	C. B. Rolfe, 2, Whitehall-court, S.W. 1
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	2	Hubert Alexander, 5, High-street, Cardiff
GOUDHURST FARMERS' CLUB	1	F. Pamphilon, Crypt House, Gloucester
HUNTINGDONSHIRE	1	W. Wallis, Triggs Farm, Goudhurst, Kent
HURSTMONCEUX AND DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB	2	Gerald Hurnyburn, Solicitor, Huntingdon
ILFORD FARMERS' ASSOCIATION	1	A. K. Burtenshaw, Hailsham, Sussex
ISLE OF WIGHT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY	1	John Clarkson, 74, Aberdour-road, Goodmayes, Ilford, Essex
LANCASHIRE BRANCH OF THE N.F.U., WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE LANCASHIRE FARMERS' ASSOCIATION	4	Mrs. Heal, Ladylands, Shorwell, Isle of Wight
LAND AGENTS' SOCIETY, THE	1	T. H. Holborn, County Chambers, Fishergate, Preston
LEICESTERSHIRE	2	J. C. P. Coast, 12, Little College-street, Westminster, S.W. 1
LINCOLNSHIRE	2	P. L. Kirby, 16-18, Halford-st., Leicester
		R. Lamming, St. Benedict's-square, Lincoln

CHAMBER.	NO. OF DEPUTIES.	SECRETARY.
MONMOUTHSHIRE	2	T. Morris Prosser, Emlyn Works, Newport, Mon.
NATIONAL UNION OF LAND WORKERS ..	2	H. B. Lovell, 132A, High-street, Huntingdon
NEWCASTLE FARMERS' CLUB	1	A. T. Hargrave, The Farmers' Club, Clayton-street West, Newcastle-on-Tyne
NORFOLK	4	W. Kerridge, East Harling, Attleborough, Norfolk
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	2	R. V. Bailey (Hon. Sec.), High-street, Kingsthorpe, Northampton
RIPLEY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY .. .	1	T. Hawkin, Ripley, Harrogate.
RYE AND DISTRICT FARMERS' CLUB ..	1	E. H. Stutely, Market-road, Rye, and T. P. Dunlop, Lundford Farm, Pett, Hastings.
SCOTTISH	2	Sir Isaac Connell, S.S.C., 18, Duke-street, Edinburgh
SHROPSHIRE	3	Alfred Mansell, College-hill, Shrewsbury
NORTH-EAST SOMERSET FARMERS' CLUB	1	E. W. King, Chew Magna, Bristol
SUFFOLK	2	Herbert B. Cornell, 6, Princes-st., Ipswich
SUSSEX COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY	1	The Estate Offices, Lewes, T. S. Wilkinson
TAUNTON AND WEST SOMERSET AGRICULTURAL CLUB	1	W. R. J. Greenslade, 3, Hammet-street, Taunton
TUNBRIDGE WELLS FARMERS' CLUB ..	1	C. E. Westbrook, Bank Buildings, Tunbridge Wells
WADHURST FARMERS' CLUB	1	F. W. Larcombe, Wadhurst, Sussex
WEALD OF KENT FARMERS' CLUB .. .	1	W. R. Wells, Cranbrook, Kent
WEST RIDING, WAKEFIELD	1	Frank Barker, The Home Farm, Bretton, Wakefield
WHITCHURCH DAIRY FARMERS' ASSOCIATION	1	E. E. Wright, 29, High-street, Whitchurch, Salop
WINCHESTER AND DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION	2	Wm. Tanner, 14, Jewry-street, Winchester
WORCESTERSHIRE	3	T. H. Gallaher, 2, Pierpoint-street, Worcester
YORKSHIRE UNION OF AGRICULTURAL CLUBS AND CHAMBERS OF AGRICULTURE	2	A. E. B. Soulby, Malton, Yorks.

33.—The “ Central and Associated Chambers ” in “ General Meeting ” shall be deliberative, expressing opinion by way of resolution.

34.—Twenty-one members shall form a quorum at General Meetings.

35.—At “ General Meetings ” of the “ Central and Associated Chambers,” members of the Legislature and members of “ Associated Chambers,” who are not deputed, may be present, and may speak by permission of the Chair, but shall not have power to vote.

36.—A Special General Meeting may be called by the Council as they may direct, and shall be called on the requisition, in writing, of any ten members of the “ Central Chamber ” (two of them being members of the Council), to the Secretary, who shall forthwith arrange with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to call the meeting at such place as they may decide on, in or out of London, provided that at least fourteen days’ notice by circular of the time and place of every General Meeting shall be given by the Secretary to all Elected Members, Deputies, and Members of the Central Chamber.

OFFICERS.

37.—The officers of the “ Central Chamber ” shall be a “ Chairman,” “ Vice-Chairman,” “ Treasurer,” “ Auditor,” and “ Secretary ”; the retiring “ Chairman,” who may be re-elected for a succeeding term of one year, shall be not eligible for the Vice-Chair for the space of one year. The Council shall have power to fill up any vacancy caused by the death, resignation, or incapacity to act of any such officer.

38.—The “ Council ” shall appoint at their first meeting after the “ Annual Meeting ” of the Chamber, a “ Vice-Chairman,” who shall succeed to the Chair at the first meeting of the Council after the Annual Meeting, following the termination of the Chairman’s tenure of such office, subject to Rule 37, and a “ Treasurer.” The Auditor shall be appointed by the Chamber in General Meeting.

39.—The “ Secretary ” shall be appointed by the Council, and shall hold his appointment subject to three months’ notice

on either side. His salary shall be fixed by the Council, and he shall undertake all the various duties of a "Secretary," and be subject in all things to the orders of the Council.

40.—Correct minutes of the proceedings of the "Council," of the Central and Associated Chambers in "General Meeting," and of all Committees, shall be kept by the Secretary in suitable books, which shall be open to the inspection of members at all convenient times.

VOTING.

41.—Members of the "Central Chamber" shall have one vote each in all meetings of the "Chamber" in *General Meeting*.

42.—No member or Associated Chamber shall be entitled to vote whose subscription for the current year is in arrear; but no subscription shall be deemed to be in arrear until the 31st day of March in each year.

43.—At meetings of the Council each "Associated Chamber" shall be entitled to one vote, and one additional vote for every 50 members over the first 25 comprised in such Chamber, provided that the Chamber represented shall have contributed a sum as provided in Rule 8.

44.—Any "Associated Chamber" shall have the option of placing the votes to which it is entitled at the "Council" in the hands of either one or more of its "Deputed Members" or "Annual Deputies," provided it shall have declared its intention of doing so by inserting their names on a prescribed form of "proxy," to be obtained of the Secretary, placing against their respective names the number of votes which each is authorised to record, and placing their proxy forms in the hands of the Secretary before the commencement of a Council Meeting, or directly the representative holding the proxy enters the Council Room.

45.—If more than one Deputy be present, and no such declaration shall have been made, as is provided for in the last rule, then each Deputy shall only have one vote. The twenty-four "Elected Members of Council" shall have one vote each, in addition to any votes which they may be empowered to give as Deputed Members. The Chairman for the time being shall

be entitled to give a casting vote in case of equality, in addition to his original vote.

46.—All votes shall, in the first place, be taken by a show of hands, and the majority shall be decided by the Chairman, unless a “poll” is demanded by at least five members present, when it shall be taken as in the next Rule.

MODE OF TAKING A POLL.

47.—The name of each Chamber, and the name or names of its Annual Deputies and other Deputed Members, shall be called from its Proxy, when such Members wishing to vote shall answer “Aye” or “No,” and their votes shall be entered accordingly in the proper columns of a Voting List, and computed according to the number of votes to which their Chamber is entitled.

48.—After all the Proxy Votes have been recorded, the names of Chambers which have not voted shall be called, when their Annual Deputies or Deputed Members wishing to vote shall answer “Aye” or “No,” and such single votes shall be entered in the same List.

49.—The names of Elected Members of Council shall then be called, and their votes recorded in the same way.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

50.—The Council shall annually appoint at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting not less than nine of its members, who are also Members of the Legislature, together with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and the Business Committee, to be a “Parliamentary Committee,” of whom not less than three shall be a quorum at any meeting: such Committee to advise the Council of the introduction or progress of Measures in either House of Parliament, and also to take such measures as they may deem expedient to stimulate concerted action thereon.

51.—No member of the Parliamentary Committee (exclusive of the *ex officio* members) shall be eligible for re-election unless he has attended at least half of the meetings of that Committee held during the last year.

52.—The Parliamentary Committee may support or oppose Bills before Parliament at all their stages, provided that no amendments shall be moved or supported unless they have been approved by a two-thirds majority of the Parliamentary Committee present, at which not less than six members voted in favour, and that such amendments be not contrary to any resolutions passed by the Council.

53.—The Parliamentary Committee is empowered to spend a sum up to £10 in cases of emergency, on Parliamentary work, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 58.

OTHER COMMITTEES.

54.—The Council shall annually appoint at its first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, such other Standing Committees as it may think fit.

55.—The Council may, at any meeting, delegate any particular business to a Special Committee.

56.—Every Committee shall appoint its own Chairman, who may at any time, by arrangement with the Secretary, convene a meeting of his Committee, or a Committee shall be called by the Secretary, on the requisition, in writing, of any five of its members—not less than three days' notice being given.

CHAIRMANSHIP OF MEETINGS.

57.—All meetings of the Council, or General Meetings, shall be presided over by the Chairman, or in his absence by the Vice-Chairman, or the Treasurer, and in their absence the meeting shall elect a chairman.

FINANCE.

58.—The funds of the Central Chamber shall be at the disposal of the " Council " for the time being, and no expenditure shall be incurred without a resolution of the Council, except that the " Business " Committee may incur liability up to £20.

59.—All subscriptions and income from all other sources shall be passed through the Bankers' Account, and, except through Petty Cash, no payment shall be made otherwise than by cheque drawn on the Bankers.

60.—All cheques shall be signed by the Chairman and the Treasurer, and countersigned by the Secretary.

61.—The Treasurer shall make up all accounts to the 15th day of November in each year; and as soon as they are audited, printed copies shall be issued with the Annual Report.

ANNUAL REPORT.

62.—A report of the proceedings of the Council, and of Committees, during the last year, and information incidental thereto, shall be drafted by the "Business" Committee, and shall be laid before the Annual General Meeting. Proof copies of this Report shall be sent to all Members of Council, at least six days before the Annual Meeting.

NOTICES.

63.—All "notices" shall be sent by post to the addresses of Members of Council and of the Central Chamber appearing in the register, but the failure, from any cause, of any Member to receive the notice shall not invalidate the meeting or the proceedings thereat.

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION.

64.—Chambers in Association, Annual Deputies, and Members of the Central Chamber, who desire to propose subjects for discussion, shall give notice of the same, in writing, to the Secretary, before or at the Meeting of the Standing Business Committee immediately preceding each Meeting of the Council. The Business Committee shall consider the subjects so named, and shall report thereupon to the Council, and such report shall determine the order of business at the next following Council Meeting, unless it be challenged by five Members of the Council, in which case the order of business shall be decided by vote of the Council, without debate.

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS.

65.—No official communication shall be made to the Government, or to any Government Department, as embodying the

decisions of the Council, unless in the case of resolutions carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the Members of the Council present and voting, and unless at least fifteen Members present vote in favour of or agree to such resolution.

ALTERATION OF RULES.

66.—No rule shall be made, altered, or annulled, unless at least twenty-eight days' notice has been given to the Secretary, and the proposal inserted on the notice paper, and then only by a resolution passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes at a General Meeting.

By order,

HERBERT MATTHEWS, *Secretary*.

1st January, 1922.

BYE-LAWS.

Passed by the Council on February 7th, 1872, and amended on February 8th, 1876, March 2nd, 1880, March 3rd, 1885, June 1st, 1886, December 8th, 1886, February 1st, 1887, November 6th, 1888, March 1st, 1892, February 1st, 1898, April 3rd, 1900, November 6th, 1900, October 31st, 1905, February 25th, 1908, November 3rd, 1908, December 10th, 1919, December 7th, 1921.

RULES OF DEBATE.

1.—(a) The introducer of any subject shall confine his speech to a duration of ten minutes, and shall have the right of reply, which shall be limited to three minutes.

(b) No other speaker shall address the Chair more than once on the same subject, except to explain—and then only with the permission of Chairman; and no speech shall exceed five minutes.

(c) Every speaker must confine his observations to the subject under discussion; and should he introduce matter which does not bear upon a Resolution or Amendment before the Meeting, it shall be the duty of the Chairman to request the speaker to restrict his observations to the subject before the meeting.

(d) All Resolutions and Amendments not on the Agenda Paper shall be written or printed, and shall be at once handed to the Chairman, who shall decide upon submitting them to the Meeting.

(e) No two Amendments shall be discussed at the same time, and one Amendment must be disposed of before another is proposed.

(f) When a hostile Amendment is proposed, neither the Resolution nor the Amendment shall be amended until the Amendment has been carried or rejected. If the Amendment be carried, it shall then be put as a Resolution, and may be amended by the Meeting; or if the Amendment be lost, it shall be competent for Members to propose other Amendments or to amend the original Resolution before it is finally passed.

ARREARS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

2.—The total amount of the Annual Subscription List shall appear in the accounts of the Chamber as an Asset, until the Business Committee shall have considered the list of arrears, when it shall have power to decide which shall be written off as loss.

FINANCIAL YEAR.

3.—The Current Year shall commence on the 1st of January, all subscriptions shall be due on that day.

WITHDRAWALS.

4.—If a Member or Associated Chamber desires to withdraw fr connection with the Central Chamber, he or it may do so, after pay all subscriptions due, by giving notice to the Secretary not later th the 1st day of November in any year.

RESOLUTIONS.

5.—All Resolutions carried, or Reports of Committees adopt without a division be sent to Ministers. (See also Rule 65.)

6.—No Resolution adopted at either a Council or General Meeti shall be substantially altered, or rescinded, within six months of t date upon which it was originally passed.

ALTERATION OF BYE-LAWS.

7.—No Bye-law shall be made, altered, or annulled unless twen eight days' notice has been given to the Secretary, and the propo inserted on the notice paper, and then only by a Resolution passed a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes at a Council Meeting.

By Order of the Council,

HERBERT MATTHEWS,

Secretary

WESTMINSTER,
1922.

UNWRITTEN RULES.

The following have been established by long recognised custom

1.—That the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are *ex officio* Memb of all Committees.

2.—Any Member of the Chamber accepting office in the Governme *ipso facto* ceases to hold any office in, or a seat on any Committee the Chamber

